WEDNESDAY
February 21, 2024

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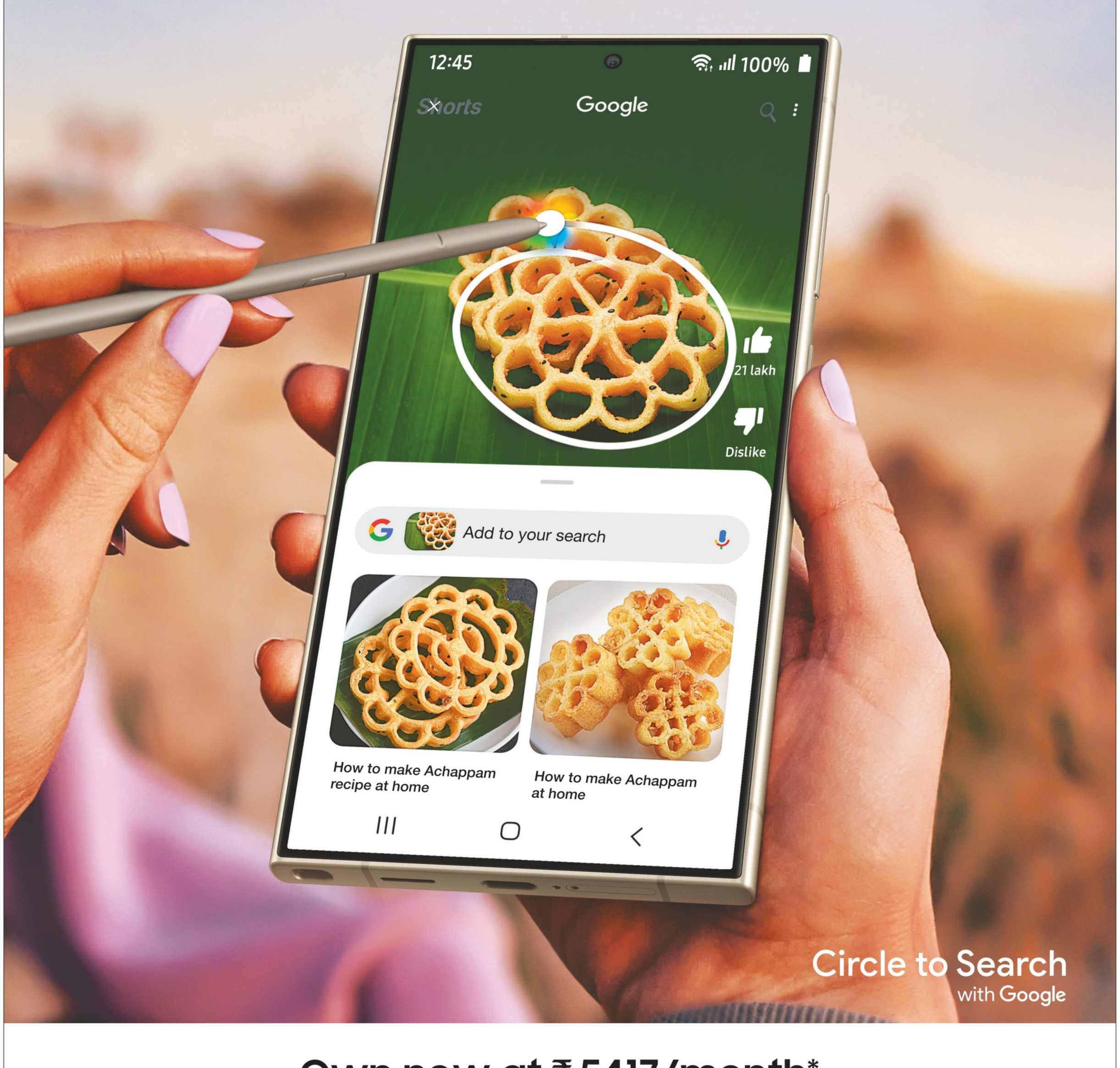

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NEARBY

CM terms five guarantees 'good economics'

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday termed the State government's five guarantees as "good economics" and said taxes are being collected from the rich for the empowerment of the poor. » PAGE 6

Penalty on arrears of property tax set to reduce

BENGALURU
The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Amendment) Bill, 2024, that seeks to reduce the penalty on property tax arrears by 50% in Bengaluru city limits. » Page 2

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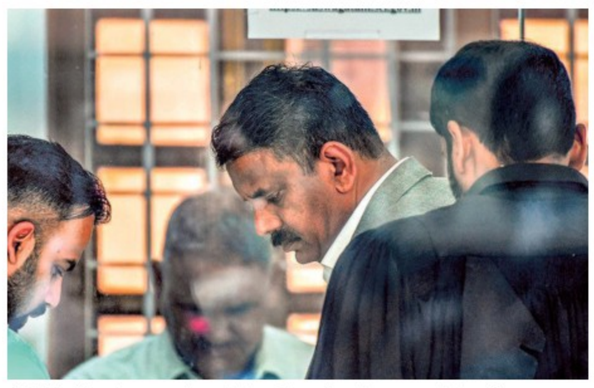
SC declares AAP leader as Mayor of Chandigarh

Top court sets aside results, initiates action against Returning Officer for 'defacing' ballot papers; Bench says it would not tolerate 'subterfuges' that destroy electoral democracy even at local levels

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that it would not tolerate "subterfuges" that destroy electoral democracy even at the local level, while declaring the Aam Aadmi Party's Kuldeep Kumar as the new Mayor of the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud initiated action against Anil Masih, the Returning Officer who presided over the controversial mayoral elections on January 30, whose "defacement" of eight ballot papers was caught on security cameras. Mr. Masih's "furtive" conduct had swung the electoral results in favour of the BJP's Manoj Sonkar. The Supreme Court had intervened on February 5 to sequester the ballot papers and video records of the polling day.



Anil Masih, who conducted the Chandigarh mayoral elections, arriving at the Supreme Court on Tuesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

By declaring Mr. Kumar as Chandigarh Mayor in a single stroke on Tuesday, the court dashed the BJP's hopes for fresh polls to the municipal corporation.

On Monday, Chief Justice Chandrachud had voiced "deep concern" about the "horse trading taking place". His remark was made in reference to the sudden shift of allegiances of three AAP councillors to the BJP, coinciding with Mr. Sonkar's resignation as Mayor on the eve of the SC hearing.

"This court is duty-bound in exercise of its powers to do complete justice under Article 142 to ensure that the process of electoral democracy is not thwarted by such subterfuges. Allowing such a state of affairs to take place would be destructive of the most valued principles of democracy our country depends on," he observed.

The Bench said that what had happened at the mayoral elections was an "exceptional situation". "The court must step in to ensure that the basic mandate of the electoral democracy, albeit, at the local participatory level, is preserved," Chief Justice Chandrachud said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Maharashtra makes way for 10% quota for all Marathas

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Walking the caste tightrope ahead of the Lok Sabha election, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his Cabinet approved a Bill to provide a 10% quota for the Maratha community in education and government jobs, which was later passed unanimously by all parties during a special session of the Maharashtra legislature on Tuesday.

The "historic" legislation fulfilled his promise to create a "foolproof" Maratha quota within three months, Mr. Shinde said.

However, activist Manoj Jarange-Patil, who has embarked on multiple hunger strikes on this issue, was unsatisfied with the new legislation, terming it a "betrayal" of the community. He is seeking a Maratha quota carved out from the existing reservation for other backward classes (OBCs), which is more likely to pass Supreme Court scrutiny.

Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis celebrate the news outside the Vidhan Bhavan.

The Bill, passed by the Legislative Assembly and Council, is similar to the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act, 2018 of the government led by Devendra Fadnavis, which was struck down by the top court in May 2021.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Indians hired as 'helpers' forced to fight in Russia's war

Vijaita Singh
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

At least three Indians were forced to fight alongside the Russians on the Russia-Ukraine border after they were allegedly conned by an agent and sent there to work as "army security helpers", one of the victims told *The Hindu*.

Since November 2023, around 18 Indians have been stranded at Mariupol, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Rostov-on-Don along the Russia-Ukraine border, and one person is said to have been killed in the ongoing war, an agent said.

While a few Indians volunteered to join the International Legion in Ukraine in 2022, the presence of Indians on Russian side in combat roles has been reported for the first time.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

II PU, SSLC exams to be held under CCTV camera surveillance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To root out malpractices, the Karnataka government has decided to conduct the first annual examination of SSLC (Class 10) and II PUC under the surveillance of CCTV cameras across the State. The II PU examination will be held from March 1 to 22 at 1,124 centres and the SSLC exam from March 25 to April 6 at 2,747 centres.

"CCTV cameras will be installed in all the examination centres, including inside the examination halls," said Ritesh Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy. Until now, only some private schools had CCTV cameras inside the classroom as well.

II PU exam to be conducted from March 1 to 22 and SSLC exam from March 25 to April 6

At a press conference here on Tuesday, Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, said this year 6,98,624 students – 3,30,644 boys and 3,67,980 girls – had enrolled for the II PU examination. For the SSLC examination, among the 8,96,271 students enrolled, 4,58,427 are boys and 4,37,844 are girls.

To reduce the number of students who fail, the government has decided to conduct three annual examinations for both SSLC and II PU students from this year. Registration for the examinations is compulsory. Registered students have to appear in any of the three examinations. The best marks in all three examinations will be considered for the results. "To facilitate the students to enrol for the degree course without loss of any classes, we are planning to conduct the annual exam-two for II PU students in the third week of April and the annual exam-three during May-end," he added.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 2

Bill that seeks to provide more FAR by paying 40% of guidance value adopted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which provides for availing of additional floor area ratio (FAR) by paying a rate not less than 40% of the guidance value. The Bill was passed without discussion amid dharna by the Opposition members.

Speaker U.T. Khader allowed the Bill to be taken up for consideration when the Opposition members were staging a dharna in the Well of the House demanding action against Ramanagara sub-inspector in connection with a lawyers' protest there.

Piloting the Bill, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar explained that the maximum additional floor area ratio per premium floor area ratio that may be purchased for a permitted building under this section shall not exceed 60% of the normal permissible floor area ratio.

A file photo of a construction site in Bengaluru. The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

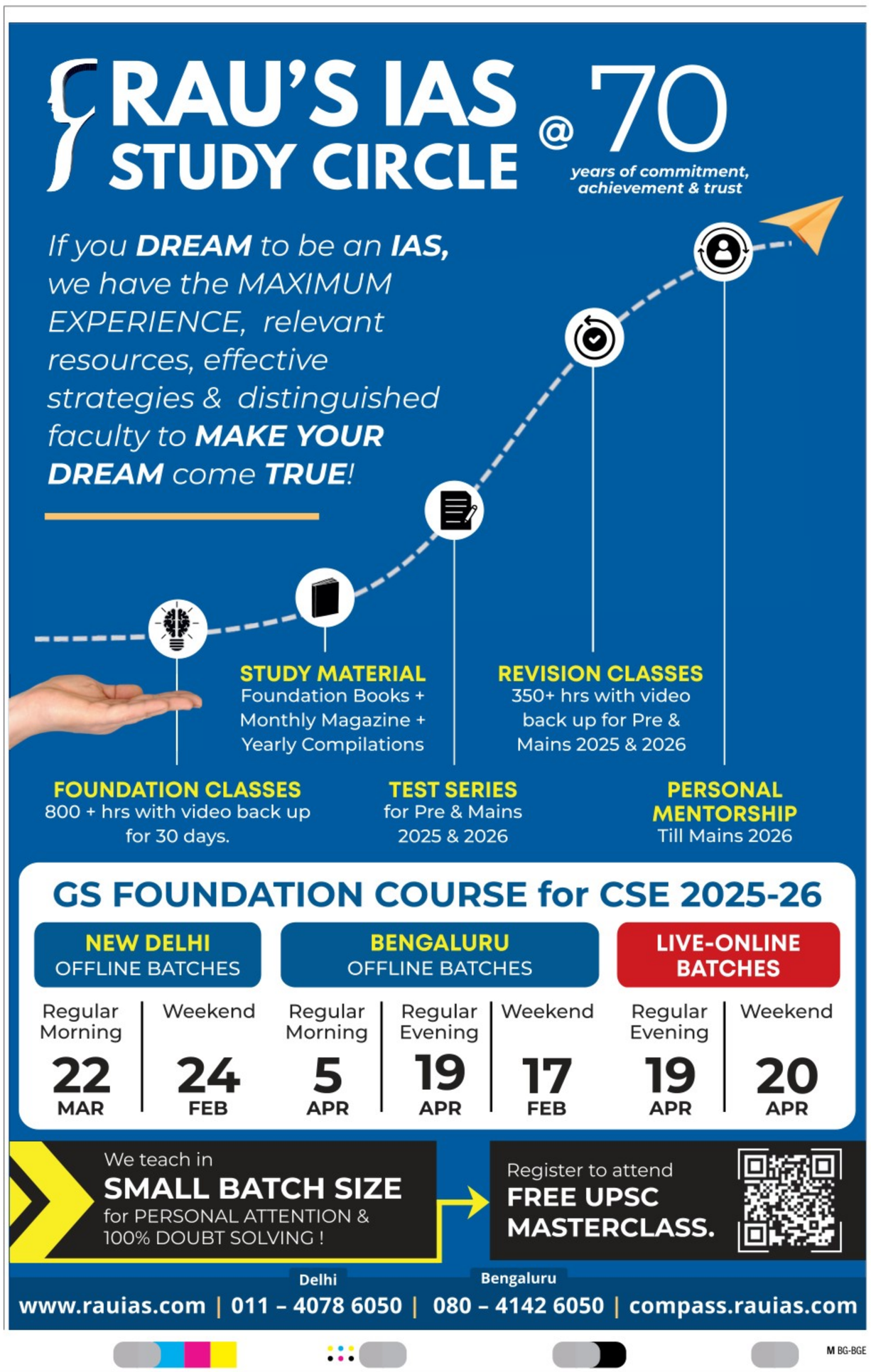
'Will help big builders'

Taking exception to the provisions of the Bill, BJP leader and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai alleged that the amendment to the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act would help big builders to indulge in irregularities. He said the proposed amendment was in favour of the rich and influential builders, and it would in no way help the common man.

"The BJP would oppose the Bill tooth and nail as it would pave the way for large-scale irregularities," he said and urged Mr. Shivakumar to review the proposed amendment because it would not benefit the land-losing farmers in any manner. Pointing out that the government had been granting TDRs for the land-losers so that they could earn some profits by selling them to builders, he said TDRs would lose their importance as builders could easily get additional floor area ratio by paying 40% of guidance value.

He expressed concern that allowing indiscriminate granting of additional floor area ratio would further lead to congestion of Bengaluru and lead to hapazard development, causing further civic problems.

Mr. Shivakumar, however, defended the Bill saying the law itself had a provision for granting additional floor area ratio. The Bill was finally approved by voice vote.



‘We don’t want to just participate, we want to be remembered’

UP Warriorz team owner Jinisha provides an insight into the workings of the WPL franchise on and off the field, and also dwells on her individual journey as a woman in sports leadership

THE GIST

- Jinisha Sharma handles all four franchises under the Capri Sports fold — Bengal Warriors (Kabaddi), Rajasthan Warriors (Kho Kho), Sharjah Warriors (IL T20 cricket) and UP Warriorz (WPL cricket)
- Capri Global Holdings bought the Lucknow franchise at an auction hosted by the BCCI for a massive sum of ₹757 crore
- UP Warriorz finished third in the first edition, losing to Mumbai Indians in the Eliminator. The team registered four wins and four losses in eight league matches
- The franchise is focusing on a number of female-led collaborations and campaigns, including a tie-up with Navya Naveli Nanda to tackle online trolling directed at women in sports
- The team is hoping to release the docu-series based the Warriorz before the third season of the WPL

Lavanya Lakshmi Narayanan

The days leading up to the second edition of the Women’s Premier League have been frenetic. Players are flying in from around the world, last-minute strategies are being chalked out, training is on in full swing and franchises are maximising every operational part of the day to keep the fans involved. Life at the UP Warriorz base in Bengaluru is no different. As team owner Jinisha Sharma sits down for a chat, she is finalising a coffee order for the squad winding down in the team room.

“I see myself as a facilitator,” Jinisha told *The Hindu* ahead of the league’s Season 2.

“The idea is to give the girls as relaxed an environment as possible for them to play the best they can. It’s to give some of them the push to get out of their rooms and get to know their teammates,” she explained.

Going with the flow

As an owner, fostering this camaraderie goes a long way in the kind of results the outfit can manage on the field as evidenced by the side’s campaign in 2023. After up-and-down results early on, the team found its rhythm, the playing combinations clicked and the Alyssa Healy-led side found itself in the knockouts.

The hands-on approach isn’t restricted to her WPL team. Jinisha, who currently heads Capri Sports – the sporting arm of Capri Global Holdings Private Limited – also manages teams in kabaddi (Bengal Warriors), kho kho (Rajasthan Warriors) and International League T20 (Sharjah Warriors). It’s one thing to call the shots in an environment filled with women – what Jinisha calls her ‘girl gang’ – and a whole new challenge to be the person in charge of men’s outfits.

“This is something we recognised quite early... each athlete will view the hierarchy and respond to it differently. We don’t want to impose or be chatty and put players in an awkward position. For example, Mani (Maninder Singh, the captain of Bengal Warriors) is absolutely fine sitting down and having a relaxed chat about things. Not all kabaddi players are the same way,” Jinisha elaborated.

It’s been a little over a year since Jinisha took over operations at Capri’s sporting ventures. Business ecosystems can be isolating spots for women, particularly in leadership positions. According to a study by Mastercard, women make up only 26.9% of the executive leadership of 31 major international sports federations. Only three are led by women. While the skewed gender ratio is an element the industry has identified as an issue to address, Jinisha feels the hurdle she faces is more age-related.

A seat at the table

“Maybe it’s in my head,” Jinisha added with a cheeky smile. “I often wonder if those around me are taking me seriously enough because I am younger. I am aware of the fact that I am still on a learning curve when it comes to the job. While I do take a stand when needed on most of the brand stuff, I have a really good team supporting me whom I rely on a lot because of the expertise they have in each area of functioning,” she added.

That said, the WPL by itself was formed to allow women parity in opportunities, platform and grandeur. Jinisha is not encouraged by the fact that the number of women in these areas can still be counted on one’s fingers.

“I’ve been trying to get more women into the field, whether it’s in contract hiring or via internships. A lot of the time, women don’t have the same depth of experience as men do and that comes in the way in getting good positions in operational spaces. We need to actually create opportunities where we can either get someone as an intern who might then be able to improve on this experience, move to the IPL and eventually come back to us in this sphere with a paid contract. I feel like it’s a chicken-and-egg situation. The time to think is over, it is time to make things happen,” she said.

Her principles found an ally in skipper Healy who insists that the control should be with the players on how their lives would be during the WPL.

Templated ecosystems

“I love that Alyssa is very strong. She possesses all of the qualities of a leader... she is not afraid to speak her mind, she’s not afraid to say no to things. Sports ecosystems can be quite templated. There is a certain expectation from players and plenty of off-field responsibilities. You’d imagine it’s enough for an athlete to go out there and do their best. But that’s not enough.

“They have 1020 interviews and brands they have to perform for, meet and greet and much more. For women’s cricket, this is still fairly new. They have never actually had to do this. They have never had to juggle so many balls at once. Now, though, they have to go out there and sell a product too.

“In that context, Alyssa was able to draw boundaries and figure out how to shield her players as well as she possibly could. Indian culture focuses on appeasing and obeying elders and hierarchy, but we were able to give players space to make choices,” Jinisha revealed.

> I often wonder if those around me are taking me seriously enough because I am younger. I am very aware of the fact that I am still on a learning curve when it comes to the job

Passion or pragmatism

Three of the five WPL entities have teams in the IPL, lending their legacies to the women’s vertical. UP Warriorz and Gujarat Giants, both franchises with other sporting operations too, do not. Jinisha called this a boon for the outfit.

“We are very fortunate that we don’t have the men’s IPL legacy attached to us and we don’t have a format or a template in which we have to fit in. That allows us to actually go out there and do things that have otherwise not been done,” she said.

This becomes important when the think-tank sits down to make financial calls and branding decisions which would help sell the Warriorz brand and its experience to a larger audience.

“Last year, we focused on just being there operationally, making sure everything was done. This time, we’re kind of playing a little bit more on the front foot with a lot of our partnerships and ideas that we want to implement. We don’t want to be a side that just came and played games. I don’t want to be a franchise that just exists. I want to ensure that this is a franchise that is remembered,” she added.

This quest for a lasting impression can even make gamblers out of the most cautious entrepreneurs. With the seasonal attention coming WPL’s way and, by extension, the larger women’s cricket community, it is tempting to cash in and explore merchandising and other fan-driven initiatives. Jinisha is wary of getting carried away,

“Take the jersey, for instance. It is quite banging, if I say so myself. If I am being honest, though, the data on merchandising is not very positive. We have plans for a limited drop this season,” she admitted.

However, the appetite for women’s sports doesn’t begin and end with material things. While the WPL is still taking baby steps in the franchise world, this toddler is learning to walk at an alarmingly fast rate.

“2023 has been the busiest year for the women’s game. This time, the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup comes soon after the WPL. I think that’s a very good sign that it’s not just us, but even the league, even the BCCI and the ICC which is deciding to up the ante.

“We want more. We want more players. We want to increase the pool. Eventually, there will be a sixth team and we know there are more than enough players to stack up that side given the number of quality players who missed out. These are signs that the commercials are looking healthy,” she added.

A way to boost the interest in the women’s game while keeping the focus lights firmly on the players has led to a docu-series.

The Warriorz have roped in award-winning filmmaker Arlene Nelson and look to do for the women’s game what the likes of *Drive to Survive* (Formula One), *Break Point* (Tennis) and *The Test* (Cricket) did for their respective sports.

“We wanted to actually dive deeper into the stories that have made these women cricketers and where they’ve come from. We’ve gone to England, we’ve gone to Australia, we’ve been around in India to different players’ homes.

“We’ve spoken to their families, giving context to who these girls are and where they come from,” Jinisha said.

“I think we are still yet to see that breakout moment for the WPL, where every single person knows about it and is gearing up to be a part of it.

“We’re hoping this can push audiences towards that end. You think you know all of these players because you’ve seen their interviews, you’ve read about them and you’ve seen them play, but we’re going to peel multiple layers and show you sides to them that you’ve not seen before,” she signed off.

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BENGALURU

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RISE	15:58	SET 04:25
THURSDAY, FEB. 22		
RISE	06:39	SET 18:27
RISE	16:50	SET 05:12
FRIDAY, FEB. 23		
RISE	06:39	SET 18:27
RISE	17:40	SET 05:54

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	22
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	33	18

Bengaluru Today
32°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Bill to reduce penalty on property tax arrears by 50% passed in Assembly

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds Bengaluru City Development portfolio, terms the Bill as 'people-friendly' while stating that it would help residents save ₹2,700 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Amendment) Bill, 2024, that seeks to reduce the penalty on property tax arrears by 50% in Bengaluru city limits.

The Bill was adopted without any debate as the Opposition BJP and JD (S) members were staging a dharna in the well of the House demanding suspension of the Ramangara SI in connection with lawyers' protest.

Piloting the Bill, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds Bengaluru City Development portfolio, described the Bill as "people-friendly" while stating that it would help residents of Bengaluru save ₹2,700 crore.

At the same time, the BBMP will also be able to collect penalties worth ₹1,000 crore, he noted.

According to him, the proposed amendment will benefit a total of 13-15 lakh residents in Bengaluru city comprising 5.51 lakh taxpayers, five to seven lakh people who are not paying property tax, and three lakh partial property taxpayers.

The Bill has a provision for a special rebate to the poor segments of society, he said.

Similarly, government residential quarters and buildings in slums are exempt from property tax penalties. Buildings up to an area of 1,000 square feet which are used for own use are exempt from property tax penalties.

Under the Bill, penalties on residential and mixed-use properties will have to pay property tax penalties only for a maximum of five years irrespective of the default duration. Interest on property tax dues would also be waived for dues beyond five years, he explained.

"This is a taxpayer-friendly amendment. We have brought this Bill to help the common people though it is a burden on the government," said Mr. Shivakumar.

Residents of Bengaluru had to pay heavy penalties as the erstwhile BJP government had passed the previous amendment Bill which doubled the penalties on property tax dues resulting in a huge burden on property taxpayers, he argued.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar speaking in the Legislative Assembly session in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

'Cauvery water supply to 110 villages will start in May'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 110 villages located on the outskirts of Bengaluru will get drinking water from Cauvery in May, said Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar. He was responding to questions in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Shivakumar said while the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will make necessary arrangements to provide Cauvery water for the drinking purposes of 110 villages, it may take two years for the completion of the work in connection with the sewage plant and others. The question on Cauvery water was posed by Yeshwanthpur MLA S.T. Somasekhar.

Mr. Shivakumar also said he will work towards clearing hurdles for providing Cauvery water to a BDA layout located near a forest land in Yeshwanthpur. "I have already held deliberations with the Forest Department to resolve the problem," he informed the Assembly.

Mr. Shivakumar said the government has provided ₹10 crore aid to MLAs in Bengaluru and the same can be utilised to solve drinking water woes. He was answering questions by BJP MLA Muniraju.

The Minister said the money can be spent towards digging borewells as drinking water should be a key priority than any other civic works at present. He said owing to the pandemic, there was a delay in the Cauvery water supply project works. He said under BWSSB, 68 water tankers are functioning. Mr. Shivakumar further said that for Dasarahalli, ₹5.24 lakh aid was given and the government will ensure speedy Cauvery water supply work to channel water to the residents in this locality.

Will regulate private commercial borewells and water tankers: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As Bengaluru city MLAs from the Opposition parties on Tuesday expressed concern in the Legislative Assembly over drinking water supply situation in the city that has already been affected, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar assured them of considering their suggestions of regulating private commercial borewells and private water tankers that charge exorbitant rates.

Responding to the BJP members Basavaraj B.A. and S. Muniraju separately during Question Hour, Mr. Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru City Development portfolio, said he would soon hold a meeting of MLAs from Bengaluru city to get their suggestions on keeping a tab on private water tankers who charge exorbitant rates.

As the other BJP members, including S. Suresh Kumar and Gopalaiah, intervened, Mr. Shivakumar noted that groundwater table in Bengaluru had receded as there was 40% deficit in the rainfall this year. However, the government was geared up to ensure proper drinking water supply during summer, he said.

'Disease prevalence in Kolar, Chickballapur reduced by 67%'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Debunking allegations by some people about treated water from K.C. and H.N. valley of Bengaluru let out to the tanks of Kolar and Chickballapur being harmful, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Tuesday told the Legislative Assembly that a study by IISc. experts showed that prevalence of diseases had, in fact, reduced in those areas by 67%.

Replying to the BJP member Dheeraj Muniraju during the Zero Hour, the Minister said the quality of available water in these areas had actually improved after taking up the project of filling up tanks in these parched districts from the treated water from K.C. and H.N. valley of Bengaluru.

This had reduced the prevalence of diseases like typhoid, dysentery and viral hepatitis, he said.

Study by experts

Mr. Byre Gowda said the government had got the IISc. experts to study the project right from its inception in 2017-18 so that any negative impact on people's health or environment would come to light immediately.

Open Day at Raman Research Institute on February 28

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of the National Science Day celebrations, the Raman Research Institute (RRI) is organising an Open Day on February 28.

Every year, the National Science Day is celebrated across India on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect for which Sir CV Raman received the Nobel prize.

"RRI is opening its doors to students and science enthusiasts in Bengaluru. More than thousand students, from both government and private schools and colleges, will participate in the Institute's celebrations," RRI said.

The Institute further said that the visitors can witness the Institute's ongoing science and research activities through the numerous experiments, hands-on science activities, science models and exhibits and other demonstrations to be presented by the Institute's students and staff.

"The visitors will also get a chance to visit the Raman Museum, housing a rare collection of precious stones, rocks and more. Besides, the Raman Archival Gallery will walk through the life and science of Raman and the contribution made by the Institute he established," it said. The timings are between 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.

Sir CV Raman founded the RRI in 1948 which is a premier research Institution in India, pursuing cutting-edge fundamental research in select frontier areas of physics under contemporary research themes.

From Page One

II PU, SSLC exams to be held under CCTV camera surveillance

There is no separate dress code for students to appear the examination. SSLC students should wear the prescribed uniform of their schools and II PU students should follow the Supreme Court order and dress accordingly. Wearing the school and college identity card (ID) is a must for all the students, Mr. Bangarappa said.

"Despite giving enough time, as many as 52 private schools have not renewed recognition and as a result, over 5,000 SSLC students are in trouble. We have decided to tag these private schools with nearby government or aided schools and students will be allowed to take the SSLC exam," he said.

INBRIEF

Man arrested for attacking wife with machete

Residents of Wind Tunnel Road were in shock when a man attacked a woman passing by with a machete, and then tried to escape before being pinned down by a few people on Monday evening.

The accused, later identified as Sheikh Mujeeb, 37, a cab driver, had assaulted his estranged wife Nigar, 28, accusing her of having an affair. Mujeeb was later handed over to the JB Nagar police and Nigar was rushed to a private hospital.

An enquiry revealed that Mujeeb, a native of Hosakote, married Nigar a few years ago. It was a love marriage and Nigar was working in a private firm. According to the police, the couple used to have frequent fights after Mujeeb began to suspect Nigar.

The JB Nagar police have registered a case of attempt to murder and investigation is on.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (February 21, Wednesday), the following articles are available:

- Why are farmers protesting again? **bit.ly/farmersprotestagain**
- Amount of tiny plastic particles in bottled water underestimated: study **bit.ly/plasticinwaterbottles**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Smt.Sunitha.M W/o Sri.Ashokan.V** to bring the notice of the general public that the original absolute sale deed bearing doc No.3532/1995-96 of Book-1, Volum-1150, Pages-179-182, Date.17.07.1995. And another original absolute sale deed bearing doc No.KRI-1-37170/2004-05 of Book-1, Stored in CD No.KRID127, Date.31.03.2005, both are registered in the office of the sub-registrar K.R.Puram, Bangalore, are missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing **Site No.31,** Old Katha No.85, then changed as No.239, new Katha No.239/85, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 40 feet, total measuring **1600 Sq.ft.,** situated at **Kothanur Village, K.Narayanapura Panchayath, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** earlier Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and bounded by:

East by : House Site No.32, West by : Private Property, North by : House Site No.36, South by : Road

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: **(i) SMT.ARUNA.M.N, (ii) SMT.ARAVINDA.M.N, (iii) SMT.SUCHETA.M.N** and **(iv) SMT.BHARATI LAKSHMI,** all are daughters of Late.M.L.Narasimha Murthy.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.174/1, PID No.49-63-174/1, measuring East to West (37' + 37'6")/2 and North to South (40' + 36')/2, together with a building thereon, situated at Gandhi Bazaar Main Road, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Site No.175
West by : Corporation Land
North by : H.B.Samaja Link Road Lane
South by : Remaining portion of the property No.174

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

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EDUCATIONAL
VACANCIES

SHANTHINIKETHANA ENGLISH School-Girinagar Requires 1) Female Vice Principal / Coordinator: Young dynamic profile with minimum 4 years of leadership experience. Qualification: Post graduate with B.Ed. (Age <40 Yrs) 2. Female Academic Head/ Incharge: Any graduate with NTT/MTT/ECCE with minimum 5 years experience (Age<40 Yrs) 3. Female Nursery Teachers: Any graduate with NTT/MTT/ECCE (Age<40 Yrs) 4. Primary & High School Female Teachers: For Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English, Social Studies, EVS, Hindi – Trained, Freshers / experienced (Age <40 Yrs) 5. Female Front Office Executive: With pleasing personality Graduate / Diploma with good communication & computer skills (Age <35 Yrs) 6. Female Accountant: With B.Com. Experience in school (Age <35 Yrs) 7. Others: Art & Craft, Librarian, Music, Yoga, P.E, Creative Graphic Designer, Digital Marketing Management (Female-Age<35Yrs). Salary is not a constraint for the deserving candidates. Walk-in-Interview: 21st to 23rd Feb - Timings: 10 am- 4 pm. 24th Feb – Timings: 10 am- 1 pm. Submit resume with recent photograph. Shanthinikethana School, 1341/A, 8th 'C' Cross, 8th Main, Girinagar 2nd Phase, Bengaluru-85. Phone: 7760202693 / 7676068929 / 080-26721334, 26420794.
E-mail: hrdsgps@gmail.com; www.shanthinikethana.in. Facebook/shanthinikethanaschool.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

WE, ARVIND Vira Mor and Vanitaben ,R/o Flat No.207, G R Maithri Apartments, Jogupalya Main Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru – 560 008 have changed our minor Son's name from Bhautik to Bhautik Arvind Mor, vide Affidavit dated: 19.02.2024 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

EDUCATIONAL
VACANCIES

ADELIE INTERNATIONAL Preschool, Requires 1) Female Academic Head / Co-ordinator: For Pre-Primary - Young dynamic profile with minimum 4 years of leadership experience (Age<40 Yrs) Qualification: NTT/ MTT/ ECCE with Post graduation. 2. Female Teachers: Qualification - NTT/ MTT/ ECCE With any Degree (Age <40 Yrs) 3. Female Teachers: Art & Craft, Yoga, Music, Social Media Designer- Graphic, Photography, Website & creative skills. 4. Female Front Office Executive: With pleasing personality Graduate / Diploma with good communication & computer skills (Age <35 Yrs) 5. Female Accountat: With B.Com. Experience in school (Age <35 Yrs) Salary is not a constraint for the deserving candidates. Walk-in-Interview: 21st to 23rd Feb - Timings: 10 am- 4 pm. 24th Feb – Timings: 10 am- 1 pm. Submit resume with recent photograph. Adelie International Preschool, Opp. to Swami Vivekananda Circle, 1st Phase, Girinagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-85. Phone: 9591622353, 9845030600, 080-26724522.
E-Mail: hrdsgps@gmail.com; Facebook/Adelieinternational

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE SPECIAL DISTRICT JUDGE OF SALEM
M.C.O.P. No. 1380/2023

1. N. Kowsar, 2. Minor Figan, 3. Minor Farson, 4. S. Babu, Minors rep by NF mother 1st petitioner, Petitioners are residing at No.89/85, 2nd Floor, Jalakandan Street, Kottai, Salem 1.
...Petitioners/Claimants
Versus
S.N. Mahendran, Prop. Rich Rich Transport Near Renuka Yellam Temple, Ground Floor, No.314/2A,Yammauna Building Vinayagar Nagar, Jigani, Bangalore-560105, Karnataka State. **...1st Respondent**

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT

Please take notice that the above named petitioners have filed an application for seeking compensation for the death of Nazar in a Motor accident on 3.7.2023 and the above accident case was filed against you. The above case is posted to **6.3.2024** for your appearance. Hence you are hereby informed to appear before this Honourable Court **on 6.3.2024 at 10 AM.** If you fail to appear on that date, the matter will be decided exparte.

BY ORDER OF THIS COURT
(J. SUBRAMANIYAN)
SALEM, TAMILNADU
ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER
Cell No. 9600942522
Salem. 15.02.2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/104/2024
Dated : 16-02-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Gadag - Hotgi doubling project : Proposed construction of FOBs at Kalgurki, Honaganahalli, Ibrahimpur, Kyatanakeri and Nimbal Stations. Construction, extension and raising of platform from medium level to high level and other miscellaneous works between Basavana Bagewadi Road to Sulerjavalgi Stations. **(Tender Ref. No. HIGA-96)**	Rs. 14,64,10,220/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 11-03-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/702/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002
(E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com)

URGENT e-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. – 646/PR/ JUSNL/ 2023-24

e-Tenders are invited from reputed financially sounds and experienced manufacturers /authorized Channel partner/authorized Dealer only having adequate experience for Manufacturing & supply of materials detailed as below : -

Name of the works	Estimated cost (In Rs.)	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Cost of BOQ (Non-Refundable) in Rs./-
Procurement of 33 KV Circuit Breaker 2500 A, 25KA Vacuum CB with support structure, marshalling boxes, terminal connectors Suitable for ACSR Zebra etc. for various Grid Sub-Station in JUSNL	34,35,782.00	68,800.00	10,000.00 + GST
Delivery	Delivery should completed within **(04) Four months** from the date of issue of Letter of Intent		
Start Date & Time of Download the Tender Documents	26.02.2024 at 11:00 AM		
Start Date and time of upload of BID	26.02.2024 at 11:30 AM		
End date and time of upload of BID	13.03.2024 at 04:00 PM		
BID Opening date for technical part	14.03.2024 at 04:00 PM		
BID Opening date for price part	Will be communicated		
Procurement Officer and address for communication	General Manager, C&M (NWBP), 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi – 834002		

1. e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned **(8987421011)** during office hours.
2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
General Manager, C&M (NWBP)
JUSNL,Ranchi

PR 319754 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(23-24)D

Amount of tiny plastic particles in bottled water underestimated: study

A study has confirmed the fragmentation of the plastic content of real-world water samples beyond the micrometre scale. Its findings are distinguished by the research team's use of a technique that could reveal a 'hidden world' of even smaller plastic particles that have eluded conventional imaging methods

Priyali Prakash

Bottled water hides more gremlins than you can image. BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES VIA AFP

A litre of bottled water can contain more than one lakh particles of micro- and nano-plastics, with 90% of those being the latter, a new study has reported. Nanoplastics are minute, with dimensions ranging from 1 nanometre to 1 micrometre. The new findings indicate bottled water contains a much greater concentration of of these minuscule plastics particles than previously expected.

The study, conducted by scientists at Columbia University in New York and published on January 8, 2024 in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, profiled individual plastic particles to bridge the knowledge gap that exists in the analysis of nanoplastics, as a result of effective techniques. Experts also believe the study can be instrumental in providing information about plastic pollution at the nanometre level.

The prefix 'micro' means one-millionth; 'nano' means one-billionth.

How was the study conducted?

Nanoplastics are difficult to analyse, mainly due to their size and also due to the inability of different diagnostic techniques to identify them.

In their experiment, the researchers addressed these challenges using a custom hyperspectral stimulated Raman scattering (SRS) imaging platform. This set up could capture multiple images of an object's molecules at different wavelengths, allowing the scientists a comprehensive picture with which they could piece together the composition of the object.

SRS microscopy uses the Raman effect, a.k.a. Raman scattering. When light of a certain frequency is beamed at a group of atoms or molecules, the latter both absorb some of the energy in the beam and scatter it to different direction. This is a form of inelastic scattering. (In elastic scattering, the scattered light still has the kinetic energy and the atoms or molecules haven't absorbed any.)

The research team used the SRS imaging platform along with an automated algorithm the team had devised to identify plastics. The algorithm extracted detailed information – i.e. at the single-particle level – about the chemical makeup from the data produced by the SRS platform.

Once the researchers had tested and verified that this combined apparatus could detect plastic particles quickly and accurately, they used bottled water as a model system to look for micro- and nano-plastics.

What were the findings?

The investigation revealed the presence of around 2.4 lakh micro- and nano-plastic particles per litre of bottled water (give or take 1.3 lakh). The researchers concluded based on the magnitude of the result – "two to three orders of magnitude more than the previously reported results merely focusing on large microplastics," according to the paper – that experts may have been underestimating the concentration of microplastics in bottled water.

To quote from the paper: "As it pertains to the estimation of human exposure, these values are substantially higher than those currently reported in the literature, which is a result from the newly detected nanoplastic fraction of plastic particulate. The tiny particles previously invisible under conventional imaging actually dominate in number and account for [approximately] 90% of the entire population of plastic particles detected. The remaining 10% identified as microplastics have a concentration of around [30,000] particles per litre, with the majority of them in the size below 2 μm. Larger particles (>2 μm), which are easier to identify under regular optical microscopy, are in the same order of magnitude as the reported microplastic analysis depending on the detection limited reported based on different technologies."

Indeed, traditional single-particle chemical imaging techniques like Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and Raman microscopy have lower instrumental resolution and detection sensitivity. As a result, they have a limited ability to study the chemical composition of a material beyond the microscopic scale. At the same time, some of the more sophisticated techniques that can track and study individual particles such as atoms and molecules, like electron microscopy and atomic force microscopy, can't differentiate between different compositions and thus uniquely identify the material.

> The study profiled individual plastic particles to bridge the knowledge gap that exists in the analysis of nanoplastics. Experts believe the study can provide information about plastic pollution at nanometre level

The study also revealed the presence of particles in the sample that did not match any standards, suggesting the particulate composition of bottled water could go beyond plastic 'contaminants'. These standards refer to international rules that classify different plastic materials based on their physical and chemical properties. Particles that do not match any of these standards implied the presence of other particulate inhabitants.

Which plastics are in the water?

The algorithm the research team used to track the presence of plastics in bottled water could spot following the types: polyamide 66, polypropylene (PP), polyethylene, polymethyl methacrylate, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polystyrene, and polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

The study confirmed the fragmentation of the plastic content of real-world water samples beyond the micrometre scale. Its findings are distinguished by the research team's use of the SRS platform, which revealed a 'hidden world' of even smaller plastic particles that have eluded conventional imaging techniques.

The researchers also reported that counting the plastic particles in the model system revealed a complex relationship between the compositions, shapes, and sizes of plastic particles. For example, according to them, polystyrene particles are around 100-200 nanometres in size whereas PET particles have a size of around 1-2 micrometres. This, the researchers write, "explains why PET is a more significant component when measuring [the particles] in mass while polystyrene clearly dominates when counting the number of particles".

The study has been published at a time when plastic pollution has become a defining concern of the present era, with microplastics being found in all ecosystems from ocean trenches to the tops of Himalayan mountains.

Studies have also found that plastic items can break down into sub-micrometre pieces, meaning they can breach biological barriers and enter different parts of the bodies of living beings.

THE GIST

- Nanoplastics are difficult to analyse due to their size and also due to the inability of different diagnostic techniques to identify them
- Researchers used a SRS imaging platform along with an automated algorithm to identify plastics. The algorithm extracted detailed information about the chemical makeup from data produced by the SRS platform
- Studies have found that plastic items can break down into sub-micrometre pieces, meaning they can breach biological barriers and enter different parts of the bodies of living beings

BIG SHOT

This picture released on February 16 shows a Skywalker hoolock gibbon in Myanmar. When the Skywalker hoolock gibbon was first discovered in 2017 by a group of *Star Wars*-loving scientists, its only confirmed population (fewer than 200 individuals) was in neighbouring China. But in a new study, researchers confirmed Myanmar has the largest known population of Skywalker gibbons in a single location. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

Sheep are instinctive swimmers

Q: Do sheep swim? If so, how do they learn?

A: Yes, sheep do swim, said Edward Spevak, assistant curator of mammals at the Bronx Zoo. "It's basically instinctive, a life-saving device," he said. "They don't go swimming every day, but in case of flooding or falling into a river, in essence they know how to swim."

Sheep have never been known as big swimmers, and most of the habitat where they evolved does not have a lot of water resources, but swimming is part of their repertoire of skills, he told *The New York Times*.

First of all, like many animals, they float, Spevak explained. "Then, in struggling to keep their heads above water and to keep breathing, the method they use is basically fast walking, which constitutes a kind of dog paddle."

Other large mammals are swimmers, too, Spevak added. Cattle can swim when herded across a river, as Western movie fans know. Deer can swim as well. "The moose, the largest deer in the world, actually feeds in water and is a very good swimmer," he said.

Sheep can maintain their form in water more than adequately. GETTY IMAGES

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Fraser Town residents seek MLA's help to stop Ramzan food mela

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With a resolve not to have the popular Ramzan food mela in Fraser Town during Ramzan which begins in March, the Fraser Town Residents' Welfare Association (FTRWA) on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to Pulikeshinagar MLA A.C. Srinivas.

Every year, during Ramzan, eateries and sweetmeat shops around Mosque Road and MM Road put up stalls in the evening. The mela attracts crowds from across Bengaluru who come there for signature dishes like kebabs and various desserts. However, for years now, residents have been complaining about the inconvenience caused by the mela.

In the memorandum, the residents have listed several problems including encroachment of footpaths, stalls put up without licences from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board or any other authorities.

"We started late last year, but our target was to ensure that this year the mela does not happen. That is why we started the campaign earlier this year. The MLA has been very supportive and told us that he will evaluate the options. We will not allow the mela this year for sure," said Saud Dastagir, a member of FTRWA.

The MLA was not available for comments.

Technical problem hits metro services on Purple Line

There was a communication problem in the signalling system between Baiyappanahalli and Garudacharpalya, says BMRCL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thousands of commuters on the busy Purple Line of Namma Metro in Bengaluru faced inconvenience for a few hours on Tuesday morning after the movement of trains was disrupted owing to a technical snag.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) fixed the problem around 9.20 a.m., and train services were restored at 9.22 a.m.

According to BMRCL, there was a communication problem in the signalling system between Baiyappanahalli and Garudacharpalya. The snag resulted in slow movement of trains between these stations.

Large crowds were seen waiting for trains at several stations.

To ease the passenger traffic, BMRCL ran three short-loop trains between Majestic and Baiyappanahalli, said an official. According to sources in BMRCL, the problem was reported post 6 a.m. and persisted till 9.20 a.m.

BMRCL has been facing flak over multiple disruptions in a month from commuters.

Many took to X (formerly Twitter) to express anger over the frequent disruption of services and a lack of prior information to commuters.

The problem was resolved around 9.20 a.m., and normal train services were restored at 9.22 a.m. K. MURALI KUMAR

Yogesh Naik said: "Huge letdown by Namma Metro. And not even a single security guard had a clue. There was no crowd control. There is absolutely no space to stand at the platform in Majestic station."

Another user said: "CM Siddaramaiah, instead of Skydeck, in the budget, you should have proposed some plan to manage crowd at the metro station."

Bengaluru South MP, Tejasvi Surya, on platform X (formerly Twitter) said: "Many of my constituents have sent me messages regarding excruciating delays in Purple Line operations today morning. I understand BMRCL has cited technical snags as the reason. While reasons may be genuine, users fail to understand just how many times Metro operations are impacted every month."

Ramalinga Reddy flags off 20 new BMTC buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has added 12 Vayu Vajra buses to operate on three different routes and eight normal buses which will operate on a single route in the city.

Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy flagged off these buses which are new additions to the BMTC's fleet.

According to a press release issued by the BMTC, four Vayu Vajra buses each will operate between Sarjapur and Hebbal, Shivajinagar and Bannerghatta, and Sarjapur and Kempegowda International Airport.

Eight normal buses will operate between Shivajinagar and Bannerghatta National Park.

BMTC is the only corporation providing transport facilities to Bengaluru city and surrounding areas.

In this regard, 5,584 buses are making 57,820 trips on 11.4 lakh km every day.

An average of 40 lakh passengers are availing the facilities of the transport every day.

According to the demand of passengers of Bengaluru city, the corporation is introducing new routes, increasing the transports on the existing routes, revising and operating the transports according to the passenger traffic.

A total of 1,174 additional roundabouts are being operated daily after the implementation of Shakti scheme, said the release.

Bengaluru-Bali direct flights to be launched on March 29

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IndiGo will launch daily direct flights from Bengaluru to Denpasar in Bali, Indonesia on March 29.

The daily direct flights from Bengaluru will cater to the substantial surge in Indian tourists travelling to the island of Bali.

Flight 6E 1605 will depart Bengaluru at 12.05 a.m. and land in Denpasar at 10.20 a.m. Flight 6E 1606 will depart Denpasar at 11.20 a.m. and reach Bengaluru at 3.15 p.m.

IndiGo started operations to Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, in 2023. Bali will be its second destination in Indonesia.

Denpasar will be the airline's 33rd international destination.

Vinay Malhotra, head of Global Sales at IndiGo, said, "We are extremely excited to announce Denpasar (the main hub of the Indonesian province of Bali) as the newest international destination to join the 6E network. With a hassle-free visa process, Bali has become a preferred destination for tourists. With the launch of these new flights, we aim to not only strengthen the ties between India and Indonesia, but also promote tourism and foster potential business collaboration. IndiGo will continue to deliver on its promise of affordable, on-time, courteous, and hassle-free travel experience across an unparalleled network."

IndiGo started operations to Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, in 2023, and Bali will be its second destination in the country. FILE PHOTO

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Surge in the shares of crisis-hit fintech company Paytm

5 In percentage. The scrip of the company surged ₹376.45 and ₹376.25 apiece — its upper circuit limit — on the BSE and NSE. The rally comes after the company announced its collaboration with Axis Bank for the continuation of merchant settlements. PTI

The rise in the number of measles cases globally last year

79 In percentage. The WHO voiced alarm at the rapid spread of measles around the world, with more than 3,06,000 cases reported last year. The WHO's estimate indicates that there were 9.2 million cases and 1,36,216 measles deaths in 2022. AFP

The decline in Suez Canal revenues due to Houthi attacks

40-50 In percentage. The canal is one of the main sources of foreign currency for Egypt which is undergoing a severe financial crisis. Several shipping firms have stopped passage through the Red Sea. AFP

The number of EPFO members added in December

15.62 in lakh. An increase of 11.97% was registered in net member addition during December 2023 compared to the previous month. The data showed that 8.41 lakh new members were enrolled in December 2023. PTI

Number of investor accounts added in January

46.7 in lakh. The mutual fund industry saw an uptick in folios. Over the past year, average folio additions were 22.3 lakh per month; the latest figure was more than double this level. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why are farmers protesting again?

What is the primary demand of the farmers who are currently camped out near different locations on the Haryana border? Why have meetings with the Union government failed? What is the government's stance with respect to purchasing crops at Minimum Support Price?

EXPLAINER

Vikas Vasudeva

The story so far:
On February 13, groups of farmers heeded a call given by the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha and the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) and began a march to the national capital, to press for fulfilment of their demands, which include a legal guarantee for purchasing crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and a farm loan waiver.

How has the march progressed?
While farmers from different States have reportedly started heading for Delhi, it has been largely from Punjab that scores of farmers started their 'tractor-trolley' march to reach Delhi via Haryana. As farmers arrived at Shambhu-Ambala and Khanauri-Jind, the inter-state boundary between Haryana-Punjab, they were stopped from entering Haryana. The Haryana government had put in place elaborate security arrangements with multi-layer barricades, which included iron nails, barbed wires, concrete barricade-blocks, boulders, trenches and anti-riot vehicles on the roads bordering Punjab. Additionally, the police resorted to the use of tear gas through drones, and water cannons to disperse the agitating farmers. Police-farmer clashes ensued when farmer groups attempted to enter Haryana by pushing and throwing away the multi-layer barricades.

Massive deployment of police and paramilitary personnel have been put in place in areas bordering Delhi to stop protesting farmers from entering the city. As the stand-off continues, farmers from Punjab have been camping near different locations on the inter-state boundary with Haryana and are set to resume their march on February 21.

What about talks between the two?
So far, four rounds of meetings have been held between the Union government and farmer leaders but they have not resulted in anything concrete. On February 18, after the latest meeting between Union Ministers Arjun Munda, Piyush Goyal, Nityanand Rai and farmer leaders Jagjit Singh Dallewal and Sarwan Singh Pandher, the government offered to procure five crops on MSP by entering into a contract for five years. The protesting farmers, however, rejected the government's offer.

According to Sarwan Singh Pandher, coordinator of the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, the proposal presented during the fourth meeting was different than what the Union Ministers disclosed before the media after the meeting was over. He pointed out that in the meeting it was proposed that the government would purchase five crops including masoor (lentil), urad (black gram), arhar (pigeon peas), maize, and cotton at the MSP. However, what was conveyed after the meeting was that the buying would be done for five years under contractual agreements. This, Mr. Pandher said was not acceptable, and hence the offer was rejected. According to Samyukta Kisan Morcha leaders, the government should clarify whether the MSP they proposed is based on the A2+FL+ 50% method (input cost and family labour) or at the rate of C2 (input cost and rent of the land)+50%. They asserted that there has been no transparency in the discussions.

A long fight: Farmers protest near the Haryana-Punjab state border at Shambhu on February 20. AFP

What are the primary demands?
The primary concern of the protesting farmers is that no law on MSP has been enacted yet, and that the Union government is turning a blind eye to their other demands despite repeated appeals. The MSP is the price at which the government promises, on paper, to procure agricultural produce from farmers. There are MSPs for 22 crops, primarily grains, pulses and oil seeds, paddy and copra. According to studies, only a small share of farmers in the country benefits from MSPs. Farmers accuse that even as the government promised to look into their demands during the earlier agitation, it has been going slow on its commitments.

What has been government's stance?
The Union government has repeatedly asserted that announcing a guaranteed MSP will not be possible. The Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda told the media that for a law on guaranteed MSP, the Centre would have to look at all sides.

The ongoing farmers' protest rekindled memories of the year-long agitation by farmers during 2020-21 when scores of farmers camped at several places around Delhi's borders. Back then, farmers were demanding a repeal of the three farm laws enacted by the Union government, which they asserted were detrimental to the interests of the agricultural community. These included the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act. The laws were rolled back in 2021 by the Centre. One of the key demands included a guarantee for purchasing crops at MSP.

Other demands include a complete loan waiver for the farmers and farm labour, a monthly pension for 58-year-old farmers/farm labourers, withdrawal of the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2020, reintroduction of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 to ensure farmers consent and compensation at four times the collector rate, 200 days of employment annually at a daily wage of ₹700 under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act etc.

THE GIST

- While farmers from different States have reportedly started heading for Delhi, it has been largely from Punjab that scores of farmers started their 'tractor-trolley' march to reach Delhi via Haryana.
- The primary concern of the protesting farmers is that no law on MSP has been enacted yet, and that the Union government is turning a blind eye to their other demands despite repeated appeals.
- The Union government has repeatedly asserted that announcing a guaranteed MSP will not be possible. The Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda told the media that for a law on guaranteed MSP, the Centre would have to look at all sides.

On the right to maintenance for divorced Muslim women

Do personal laws debar divorced Muslim women from availing maintenance under Section 125 CrPC?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:
The Supreme Court has decided to examine if a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to a claim of maintenance under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) from her former husband – reigniting the debate on whether secular laws should be given precedence over distinct personal laws. On February 19, a Bench comprising Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih reserved its verdict in the case.

How has the law evolved?
The law governing maintenance for destitute wives, children, and parents has been codified under Section 125 of the CrPC. It stipulates that if any person "having sufficient means neglects or refuses to maintain" his wife, – then a magistrate of the first class may, upon proof of such neglect or refusal, order such a person to make a monthly allowance for the maintenance of his wife at a monthly rate as the magistrate thinks fit. The explanation to this provision clarifies that a "wife" includes any woman who has been divorced by, or has obtained a divorce from, her husband and has not remarried.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 (1986 Act), on the other hand, is a religion-specific law that provides a procedure for a Muslim woman to claim maintenance during divorce. Section 3 of the 1986 Act guarantees the payment of maintenance to a divorced Muslim woman by her former husband only during the period of *iddat* – a period, usually of three months, which a woman must observe after the death of her husband or a divorce before she can remarry. After the completion of the *iddat* period, a woman can approach a first-class magistrate for maintenance in case she has not remarried and is not in a position to take care of herself financially.

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the *Danial Latifi versus Union Of India* (2001) case upheld the constitutional validity of the 1986 Act by extending the right of a Muslim woman to get maintenance till she re-marries. It, however, reduced the period of maintenance to the completion of *iddat*. In 2009, a Division Bench of the Supreme Court reiterated a divorced Muslim woman's right to claim maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC as long as she does not remarry. It highlighted that such a relief would be extended even after the expiry of the *iddat* period.

How did the proceedings play out?
The apex court pointed out that Section 3 of the 1986 Act begins with a non-obstante clause ("notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force"), and thus it does not bar an alternative remedy under Section 125 of the CrPC. Senior advocate Gaurav Agrawal, the amicus, agreed with this observation. He also said that the question of whether the 1986 Act takes away the right under Section 125 of the CrPC was not dealt with in *Danial Latifi* and thus there is a requirement of an authoritative pronouncement in this regard.

"However, the observations in paragraph 33 of the judgment suggest that the 1986 Act has to be interpreted in such a manner that the divorced Muslim woman is entitled to all rights of maintenance as are available to other divorced women in the country. Consequently, the rights of divorced women cannot be taken away only from one section of divorced women of our country, lest it infringe Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution. Thus, the validity of the 1986 Act was upheld with this understanding that the 1986 Act does not seek to treat Muslim divorced women any less favourably than other divorced women," he elucidated.

Dismissing the petitioner's argument that the provisions of the 1986 Act reflect the Parliament's intent to debar Muslim women from seeking relief under Section 125 of the CrPC, the court asserted that if that were the case then the legislators would have explicitly given an overriding effect to the 1986 Act. "The Act does not say no petition under Section 125 shall be filed by Muslim women. They should have said that. In the absence of such a thing, can we add the restriction to the Act?" Justice B.V. Nagarathna emphasised.

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court has decided to examine if a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to a claim of maintenance under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) from her former husband — reigniting the debate on of whether secular laws should be given precedence over distinct personal laws.
- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 (1986 Act) is a religion-specific law that provides a procedure for a Muslim woman to claim maintenance during divorce.
- The apex court pointed out that Section 3 of the 1986 Act begins with a non-obstante clause and thus it does not bar an alternative remedy under Section 125 of the CrPC.

Advocates seek suspension of SI over FIR against them

Earlier, the police had arrested an advocate for an allegedly derogatory post targeting a judge in Varanasi. They also filed an FIR against a group of 40 lawyers based on a counter-complaint

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of advocates staged a protest in front of the Ramanagara DC's office on Tuesday demanding the suspension of sub-inspector Tanveer Hussain of Ijoor station over an FIR filed against 40 advocates.

Earlier, the police had arrested advocate Chand Pasha following a complaint against an allegedly derogatory post targeting a judge in Varanasi, which led to a clash between two groups of advocates last week.

While Chand Pasha was arrested, the police also filed an FIR against a group of 40 advocates based on a counter-complaint.

The group of advocates staged a protest demanding quashing of the FIR, and also suspension of PSI Tanveer Hussain. The protesters laid siege to the DC's office.

They accused the district administration of buckling under pressure from Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and MLA H.A. Iqbal Hussain.

The protest was supported by opposition leaders former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and Leader of Opposition in Assembly R. Ashok.

On the other hand, Mr. Shivakumar on Tuesday said the State government was ready to address the striking lawyers' issues if they "kept politics aside and came to the discussion table."

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Shivakumar said: "The lawyers' strike is politically motivated. The BJP is trying to capitalise on it for political gains. We are ready to resolve their issues within the legal framework if they come to the discussion table leaving aside politics."

Meanwhile, in the Legislative Assembly, the BJP and the JD(S) members staged a dharna in the well of the House demanding the suspension of the Sub Inspector and the exile of the accused lawyer from the district.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Mr. Ashok alleged that the accused lawyer, who is also a members of the SDPI, had abused the judge in his Facebook post. He alleged that the Inspector had got a counter complaint filed from Pasha and based on it an FIR had been filed against about 40 lawyers though it was Pasha who barged into their working space.

However, replying to the issue, Home Minister G. Parameshwara explained that action had been taken against Pasha by arresting him earlier. He defended the SI by saying that he had gone by rules.

Pointing out that that the government had asked the DySP of Channapatna to conduct an inquiry into the issue, he said based on the findings a decision on action against the SI would be made.

Advocates protesting in Ramanagara on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Health Officer (East), BBMP
Head Office, 9th Floor, PU Building, MG Road,
Bengaluru-560 002

No.: H.O(EAST)/PR/TEN-01/2023-24 Date: 19.02.2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

FOR COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF BIOMEDICAL WASTE GENERATED IN BBMP PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTERS AND NAMMA CLINICS OF EAST ZONE BY INTERESTED KSPCB AUTHORIZED CWBMTF'S

Request for proposal (RFP) Schedule: (1) RFP reference No.: **HO(East)/TEN-01/23-24**. **(2)** Date of Commencement of download of RFP document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**: from **21.02.2024, 5:00 p.m. (3)** Last date and time for uploading online queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: upto **27.02.2024, 2:00 p.m. (4)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting: **26.02.2024 at 11:00 a.m.** at the following venue: **10th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bangalore. (5)** Last date and time for uploading RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: upto **27.02.2024, 5:00 p.m. (6)** Date and time of online opening of RFP applications in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **29.02.2024, 11:00 a.m. (7)** Place of opening of RFP Applications: **Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. (8)** Address for communication: **Health Officer (East), 9th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru-02**

Sd/-
Health Officer (East), BBMP

Bharat Coking Coal Limited
A Mini Ratna Company
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
www.bcclweb.in

NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Bharat Coking Coal Limited is inviting applications from eligible external implementing agencies (ref. pt. 5.2 of FAQs on CSR by MCA vide General Circular No. 14/2021 Dt. 25/08/2021) for execution of its CSR project "Installation of Mini Science Centre (MSC) Labs in 05 Government Schools of Dhanbad district". The detailed requirements for the project is displayed on the website of BCCL, **https://www.bcclweb.in**.

For more information, agencies may contact Shri Abhijit Mitra, 8580025493

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUT SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA

APGENCO invites the following Online tenders for "Dr.M.V.R. RTPP & Dr.NTTPS - Providing man power to carryout different types of regular maintenance works in various Civil circles of Dr.M.V.R. RTPP & Dr.NTTPS for the period from **01-04-2024 to 31-03-2026**" through APGENCO e-Procurement.

1) NIT No.RFx:610001490 — Dr.MVR RTPP
2) NIT No.RFx:610001492 — Dr.MVR RTPP
3) NIT No.RFx:610001493 — Dr.NTTPS
4) NIT No.RFx:610001494 — Dr.NTTPS
5) NIT No.RFx:610001495 — Dr.NTTPS
6) NIT No.RFx:610001496 — Dr.NTTPS

For further details visit **www.apgenco.gov.in** or **https://etender.apgenco.gov.in/irj/portal**

Contact No : **(0866)/2526813, 2526432.**
DIPR 2721PP/CL, Dt: 20-02-2024

AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) – U40109RJ2000SGC016482
(Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarwali Road, Ajmer-305004)
Office of The Superintending Engineer (MM)
Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarwali Road, Ajmer-305004)

Short Term "E" TENDRING INVITING TENDER NOTICE

"E"-TENDERING ARE INVITED FOR Rate Contract for supply of Single Phase Bidirectional Energy Meter for Solar Roof Top with Box TN-1908, 3 Phase Bidirectional Energy Meter for Solar Roof Top with Box TN-1909, 3Phase 4 Wire LTTVM Bidirectional Energy Meter for Solar Roof Top TN-1910, 3Phase 4 Wire HTTVM Bidirectional Energy Meter for Solar Roof Top TN-1911, EMD and date of uploading / opening of tender and G.C.C. etc WILL be available at web site **www.avvnl.com** & **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. **UBN No. : AVV2324GLOB01001**

Raj.Samwad/C/23/13281 **Superintending Engineer (MM)**

City Corporation Office, Davanagere.
No.DCC:EE2:e-tender:44:2023-24 Date: 14-02-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-2)
(through KPP Portal)

Tender has been invited for the below mentioned Work under SBM 2.0 & 15th Finance Commission General Basic Grants for the year 2020-21 to 2022-23 in Three cover system through KPP Portal. Eligible Contractors/Agencies may participate in the tender through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Additional information can be obtained through Davangere City Corporation website www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in & KPPP help desk no. +91-8046010000 +91-8068948777
E procurement reference:- DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT 1288/CALL-2 Name of Work:- Disposal of legacy waste present in Landfill site of Davanagere City Corporation Avaragolla Sy.no.117/2,129, 130/1 as per CPCB guidelines . Estimated Amount (Rs. In Lakhs):- 2184.60 Amount put to tender (Rs. In Rupees):- 216119910.36 EMD (Rs. In Rupees):- 2162000.00 Contractor Class:- Contractor/ JV/ Agencies. Tender Form:- KW-4 & 6 tender period including rainy season:- 15 months
Note : Any change of date and other information will be notified only in KPP portal Only.
Date and Time for Pre Bid Meeting : : 05-03-2024 Time : 11.00 Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: : 19-03-2024 Time : 17.30 Date and Time for Opening of Prequalification Bid: : 21-03-2024 Time : 11.00 Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid: : 28-03-2024 Time : 11.00

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/612/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24
Sd/- Commissioner
Davanagere City Corporation

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.4 ನವಲಗುಂದ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08380–229248 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08380–229017
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **knnl.mrbcc4@gmail.com**

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕನೀನಿನಿ:ಮಬದ–4:ಪಿ.ಬಿ:ಎಇ–2:2701/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.02.2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:4, ನವಲಗುಂದ ರವರು ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 2701 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:4, ನವಲಗುಂದ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಡಿ **(WI NO:- 682, 694)** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು KPPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.02.2024** ರಂದು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27.02.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ** ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **28.02.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:4, ನವಲಗುಂದ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವದು.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **08380–229248** ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು
ಕನೀನಿನಿ,
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/825/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೋರ್/2023–24 **ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.4 ನವಲಗುಂದ.**

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Head Office, #6,13,1 10th Block, 2nd Phase, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072, Telephone: 080-222 02100
e-mail:kredlmd@gmail.com
Enquiry No.: KREDL/2023-24/SE0011

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited invites Request for proposal (RFP) through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform from eligible bidders (SPG) on the basis of **"Build, Own & Operation (BOO), for Design, Survey, supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation & maintenance of grid connected distributed solar power plants for solarization of selected agricultural feeders at Substation (SS) level in CESC &HESCOM jurisdiction for total capacity of 198.52 MW, its associated 11kv line to connect the plants with concerned Substation and Remote Monitoring System (RMS) of solar power plants through RESCO mode, for 25 years under phase I (remaining quantity) of Component C- Feeder Level Solarisation of PM- KUSUM Scheme.** The details of the RFP and the bidding documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **27.02.2024.** Aspiring bidders need to register in the KPP portal. Further, Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk **+91 8046010000, +91 8068948777** or e-mail to **support@eprochelpdesk.com** for any issue.

Sd/- Managing Director, KREDL, Bengaluru.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಕುಂದಾಪುರ–576201
ಫೋನ್: 08254–230349, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್–08254–232720 email: kpurforest@yahoo.com, dcfknd@aranya.gov.in
No.C2/CR/ 42/E-TENDER/OUTSOURCE/2023-24 Dated: 05-02-2024

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)

ವಿಷಯ: 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಡುವ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಲಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಡಿಪೋಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು / ಲಿಪಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು / ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ 'ಡಿ' ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ನೌಕರರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ **(Outsourcing)** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಲಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಡಿಪೋಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು / ಲಿಪಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು / ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ 'ಡಿ' ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ನೌಕರರು ಇವರುಗಳ ಸೇವೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿದ್ದು, 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–04–2024 ರಿಂದ 31–03–2025ರ ವರೆಗೆ** ಅಥವಾ ಮುಂದಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಮುಗಿಯುವವರೆಗೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಸೇವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಂದರೆ, **Outsourcing** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಅಂದಾಜು ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಶಾಸನಬದ್ಧ ಮೊತ್ತ ಸೇರಿ): **ರೂ. 124.691 ಲಕ್ಷ,** ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: **ರೂ. 2,00,000/–** (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವವರು: ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ. (3) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–02–2024 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ** (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–02–2024 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** (5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–03–2024 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**

ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **(ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08254–230349)**

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಉ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/774/23–24 ದಿ: 20.02.2024 **ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ.**

BANGALORE-MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/73/2023-24/1795 Date: 19-02-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Smt. C. Radha Represented by its GPA holder Sri. Sunil Kumar Nahata and Others has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Industrial"** Zone which land is reserved for Agriculture purpose in approved Master plan under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy.No: 32/7 Extent of 04 Acre -39 Guntas and 01 Acre - 24 Guntas 'A' Karab totally measuring 06 Acre - 23 Guntas of Chikkakuntanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) Development of Industry in this land will provide employment to the poor and middle class.
2) Laborers will get employment when Industrial development works are done in this land.
3) This Industrial development leads to the development of the surrounding area.
4) By setting up Industry in this land, the Government will collect more taxes. This tax money helps to develop the surrounding area.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his / her objection to **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru** in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 15 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
DIPR/CP/3702/Adverto/2023-24 **B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru.**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (QA/QC) Division, South Zone,
Room No. 101, Annex-3 building, BBMP, N R Square, Bengaluru-02

No: EE (QA/QC)/South/TEND/05/23-24 Date: 20-02-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only) (Two cover system)

The Executive Engineer, QA/QC, South Zone BBMP, Bengaluru invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work **for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for the below works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Comprehensive development of roads, drains, Asphalting, Providing CC roads and other developmental works in Maruthinagara, Bharathi Layout, Balajinagara, Venkateshwara Layout, Kaverappa Industrial Area, NanjappaLayout, KAS officers colony, IAS Officers colony, Pushpa layout, NS Palya, Roopenanagara and Mahadeshwara nagara and surrounding area of S G Palya Ward No.152, Madiwala ward No-172 and BTM Layout 2ndStage Ward No 176 in BTM layout sub division (Package: 1 Total-10 works). **Project cost: Rs. 1000 Lakhs, PMC cost: Rs. 10 Lakhs, EMD amount: Rs. 25,000/-**
2	Comprehensive development of roads, drains, culverts and Improvements in Maruthinagara from 10th Crs to 12th Cross Chikkadugodi, Balajinagara, Bharathi Layout, AK Colony, Venkateshwara Layout, Chacolate factoryroad, Old Madiwala, Dollars scheme and surrounding area of S G Palya Ward no-152 and Madiwala ward no-172 in BTM layout sub division (Package: 2 Total-4 works). **Project cost: Rs. 450 Lakhs, PMC cost: Rs. 4.50 Lakhs, EMD amount: Rs. 11,250/-**
3	Comprehensive Development and Construction of RCC Drains, Culvert, Cobble stone pavers, RCC Hupe pipe for Underground Drainage to carry rain water and Footpath improvements and other Development works at RA Road, Srinivagailu, Friends Colony, Marappa Garden, Maharaja Signal, Srirama Temple main road, 1st, 2nd and 4th Main roads of Church street, ST Bed7th, 8th and 9th Main roads of Ejipura ward No.148 and 6th avenue road towards western side and 5th Avenue from Carmel school upto 6th main road and 4th Avenue in Teachers Colony, 14th Main road to lead off Rain water to SWD, Teachers Colony 2nd Main road park,4th Avenue, 7th Cross, 4th Cross road in ward No. 173 Jakkasandra (Package:3 Total-13Works). **Project cost: Rs. 700 Lakhs, PMC cost: Rs. 7 Lakhs, EMD amount: Rs. 17,500/-**
4	Comprehensive Development and Construction of RCC Box Drains, Culvert, Cobble stone pavers and Footpath improvements and other Development works at 1st D Main road, Shastrinagar Cross roads,7th Block Koramangala, 3rd Cross, 4th cross and 5th Cross Balappa layout and other surrounding area in ward No.147 Adugodi and 1st Block, 3rd Block, 5th Block and 8th BlockKoramangala, Village and Surrounding area in ward No. 151 Koramangala (Package:4 Total-8 Works). **Project cost: Rs. 700 Lakhs, PMC cost: Rs. 7 Lakhs, EMD amount: Rs. 17,500/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 22.02.2024 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **26-02-2024 at 4.00 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, (QA/QC) R.No. 101, Annex-3 building, BBMP, N R Square, Bengaluru - 560002 3)** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **02.03.2024 up to 04.30 PM 4)** Date of opening of Technical Bids: **04-02-2024 at 04.00 PM 5)** Validity of Tender: **90 days from last date of receipt of tender.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (QA/QC) division, South Zone, BBMP.

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/Bemul-3.5 TON BOILER/1540/2023-24/2nd Call Date: 20-02-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible authorised suppliers / manufacturers through E-procurement for the works mentioned in the table below.The interested and authorised suppliers / manufacturers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 3.5 ton multifuel Boiler and related works to Belagavi Dairy for BEMUL, Belagavi.	1 Job	2,70,000/-	4 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 21-02-2024 to 28-02-2024 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 28-02-2024 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 29-02-2024 at 4.30 pm.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ Mother dairy- PWC&HMST/1802/2023-24 Date: 20-02-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd, Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers through E-procurement for the works mentioned in the table below.The interested and reputed suppliers / manufacturers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	Supply Installation & Commissioning of Paneer whey collection and chilling system for new product section at Mother dairy Yelahanka, Bangalore	1 Job	94,400/-	5 Months
2	Supply, Installation & Commissioning 15KL HMST for new product section at Mother dairy Yelahanka, Bangalore	1 Job	50,000/-	3 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 21-02-2024 to 07-03-2024 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 07-03-2024 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 12-03-2024 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Right Bank Canal Division, Holenarasipura - 573211

Short term Tender Notification No. 04/2023-24/
Dated: 19.02.2024

Item rate tender is invited through KPP portal only for the below mentioned work in two cover system as per KW-3 Format by the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Right Bank canal Division, Holenarasipura Hassan Dist., Karnataka State on behalf of the Managing Director, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore from the eligible Contractors of KPWD Sector Organizations. The details of events are below. 1.Tender processing charges (in Rs.) :Refer as per https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/. 2.The contractor can have access to e-tender document from 19.02.2024 to 26.02.2024 up to 4.00 pm. 3.Last date for submission of tender is 26.02.2024 up to 4.00 pm. 4.Cover –I (Technical bid) will be opened in the office of Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathi right bank canal division Holenarasipuraon 28.02.2024 at 11.00 AM. 5.Cover –II (Financial bid) 01.03.2024 or after approval of technical bid. 6.No. of work: 03 Package works 7.Nature of work: Improvements of canal 8.Cost of work: Varying from Rs. 64.41 lakhs to Rs. 76.19 lakhs 9.EMD : Varying from Rs. 1.29 lakhs to Rs. 1.53 lakhs 10.Class of Contractor:Class-III and above. Note:-1.The under signed reserves rights to reject or accept the tenders at any time without giving any reasons. 2.The amount put to tender is subject to variation and the details of tender can be had in the e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ and also during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, HRBC Division,
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/808/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/813/2023–24 **Holenarasipura**

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
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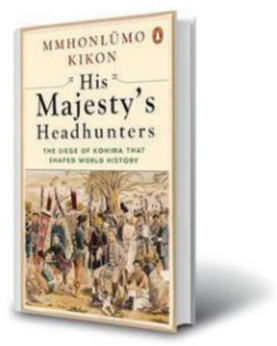
BIBLIOGRAPHY



Voice from the east: Khasi women from the West Khasi Hill district of Meghalaya cross a hanging bridge in 2020. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Tracking the northeast: new fiction by women and a history of the Kohima Battle

New books on the region chronicle old and new struggles, the history of insurgency and other battles and life in the borderlands; women, important knowledge keepers, throw light on a host of issues from patriarchy to the struggle of everyday life

Sudipta Datta

Penguin has just opened a book store in Nagaland's Chümoukedima town, which lies on the way to its capital Kohima, in association with the White Owl Book Lounge. This is the second exclusive store for the publishing house outside Delhi, and a welcome move in a State with a rich oral tradition and many stories to tell. Nagaland has just held its first literature festival too, earlier this month. Publishers like Zubaan and Speaking Tiger regularly bring out books on the northeast, offering new narratives, chronicling old and new struggles, the history of insurgency and other battles, life in the borderlands and so forth.

In her Introduction to *We Come from Mist, Writings from Meghalaya* (Zubaan), Janice Pariat eloquently writes that much like the rain, the mist is its own entity in this northeastern State, "filled with palpable agency, writhing, sltihering, billowing, being." She says: "We come from mist, because our stories come from there – the realm of the intangible, the spoken, the sung, from air, and light, and water, all those elements that exist beyond the confines of page and ink and typography."

The publishing house, Zubaan, set up in 2003 as an imprint of India's first feminist publishing house, Kali for Women, has launched a series of books by women from the Northeast, including from Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Meghalaya.

'Politics of place'

In *We Comes From Mist*, there's a contiguous thread running through many of the stories, poems, illustrations Pariat collected, all by women – that of "politics of place, emerging in the recounting and remembering of the history of militant insurgency, especially during the 1980s and 1990s." Meghalaya's "astonishing landscape" marked by monoliths or mawbynna find mention in both illustration (Balaiamon Kharngapkynta) and poem (Amanda Basaiamoit's 'Shared Stories). But, as Pariat points out, the recurring theme is that of bonds struck between women.

Written accounts of women's lives are still rare in Mizoram, say the editors of *The Keepers of Knowledge: Writings from Mizoram* (Zubaan), Hmingthanzuali and Mary Vanlalthanpuii, but it's changing. They point out that recent research on Mizo oral traditions have shown that despite the fact that women's knowledge and words were disregarded in a patriarchal society, they found other ways to articulate their concerns, one way being composing songs. It is not mere chance, they write, that studies on Mizo folk songs always begin with the story of Pi Hmuaki, the first song composer who was buried alive on the orders of the village chief and others who were said to be jealous of her talent.

While the tragedy may have prevented other women from raising their voices, "it did not stop them from becoming more active in composing songs," the lyrics speaking out against injustice. When Christian missionaries arrived, women began writing within the enclosure of the Church, but they also dappled in novels and short stories. And though most of the works on Rambuai, the 20-year conflict in Mizoram from 1966-1986, are by men, there are at least two memoirs by former Mizo National Front women volunteers.

The Battle of Kohima

Late last year, Mmhonlümo Kikon, writer and politician from Nagaland, wrote about the decisive Battle of Kohima in the Second World War which has been documented about by many American and British historians.

His Majesty's Headhunters (Penguin) tells the story from the perspective of the Nagas, and their crucial role in how the Allied forces led by Lieutenant General William Slim defeated the Japanese army led by Lieutenant General Renya Mutaguchi and Lt. Gen. Sato.

"In many a conversation," he writes in the Introduction, "the Nagas cite three reasons for the victory of the Allied forces over the Imperial Japanese Army – first and foremost being the intelligence inputs and the labour service provided by Naga villagers." Kikon profiles the headhunters who "decapitated with the right blow of the dao" and generals like Yambamo Lotha, considered "one of the best headhunters from Phiro village in Lotha country." The second reason for the loss of the Japanese is attributed to their "improper planning" and differences among the top two generals, with the third being the air cover provided by the U.S. Air Force and the supply of ammunition and arms.

Stories, myths, legends

But much before it became a battlefield, Kohima (even the name is a corruption, villagers called it Kewhima or Kewhira – the British often mispronounced local names) was the political administrative headquarters of the British colonial government since 1878.

Kikon tells the story of how Kohima became the capital of the Naga Hills and the battle between colonial forces and Angami Nagas. It took the British over four decades to establish their headquarters in Kohima, and many more years to secure it. In telling his version of a famous battle, Kikon also traces the origins of Kohima and its journey to becoming the capital of Nagaland in 1963 when the State came into being with stories, myths and legends.

Writing about Meghalaya, Pariat says, "...we are a storied people, fond of tall tales and strange superstitions, passing them on to our children and our children's children."

She could be talking about all the other States in the region too.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on languages on the occasion of International Mother Language Day being celebrated on February 21

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
According to the popular writer Stephen King, which language 'turns dirt into romance'?

QUESTION 2
Which was the second language, after Tamil, to become a legally recognised classical language of India?

QUESTION 3
From which language do we get words like assassin, sugar, and zero?

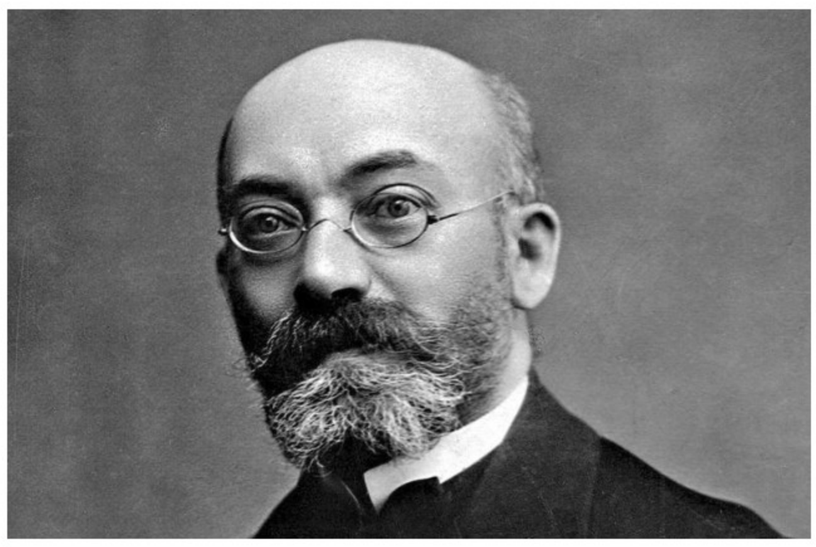
QUESTION 4
In fiction, which specific type of people spoke 'Khuzdul'?

QUESTION 5
Alphabetically arranged from A to Z, which would be the first and last in the six official languages of the UN?

QUESTION 6
Which letter appears in approximately 11% of all words in the common English vocabulary and is the second most popular key after the space bar on a keyboard?.

QUESTION 7
Nepali is an official language of which Indian State?

QUESTION 8
What is a 'loanword'?



Visual question:
Name this famous linguist and what 'universal' language did he create.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The salute adopted by Nazi Germany closely resembled this salute, created by James Upham. **Ans: Bellamy salute**
2. This salute originated from a 16th century naval tradition in which a ship would deplete its ammunition by firing its cannons into the water. **Ans: 21-gun salute**
3. The practice of greeting rulers of princely states by firing a certain number of guns was discontinued in this year. **Ans: 1971**
4. The salute in which the palm of the right hand faces downward is for this branch of the armed forces. **Ans: Navy**
5. This German fighter pilot was given a full military funeral, including a gun salute by Australia. **Ans: Manfred von Richthofen**
Visual: The armed forces of this country use this salute. **Ans: Poland**
Early Birds: Jagrati Shukla| Prashant Nain| Rajmohan. V| M. Suresh Kumar| Kamaldeep Kaur

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Ms. A. S. Pramila wants to know the difference between 'He contracted typhoid causing his mother to fear for his survival' and 'He contracted typhoid causing his mother to fear his survival.'"

" 'To fear for his survival' means the fear that he might not survive. His mother is anxious that he should continue to live. She is concerned about his life. 'To fear his survival' means that he might survive and his survival will be a cause for fear. The sentence means that his mother is afraid that he may survive."

"Several readers would like to know (a) what an idiom is (b) whether good writing or speech should contain a lot of idioms."

"I discussed this briefly a couple of years ago. Perhaps it wasn't clear. An idiom is 'a mode of expression peculiar to a language, an expression characteristic of a particular language not logically or grammatically applicable.' Take the sentence 'She drank milk'. The meaning of this sentence is the total meaning of 'she' plus 'drank' plus 'milk' in that order. By and large, the meaning of a sentence is the total meaning of the words in that sentence. Now take this sentence: 'She kicked the bucket'. The sentence means that she died. We don't get this meaning by combining the meaning of 'she', 'kicked' and 'bucket'. That is why we call an idiom 'a peculiar mode of expression'. You cannot change the structure of an idiom as you please. You have to use it as it is. You can't say 'He kicked a bucket' or 'He kicked buckets'. 'To kick the bucket' is the idiom and it must be used in that form. No alteration is permissible except when you want to be humorous. Idioms should be used judiciously. Idioms are like sweets. We enjoy eating sweets occasionally. We can't live on sweets. We live on our staple diet. Ordinary language is like the staple diet and idioms are like sweets. A speech or writing full of idioms would sound odd and funny. Here is an extract from a dialogue I wrote some years ago:

"How are you?"
"Fit as a fiddle."
"How is your father?"
"In the pink of health."
"How is your uncle?"
"He has one foot in the grave."
"Your aunt?"
"She kicked the bucket a year ago."
"Why do you speak like this?" Are you so fond of idioms?"

I am head over heels in love with them. There is more to an idiom than meets the eye, you know. Well, I have to be in another place at nine on the dot..."

If you speak or write in this manner, you will be considered idiotic. 'Idiom' and 'idiotic' are from the same root."

" 'Palindrome fans, your time has come: 1991 reads the same backward as forward. The last time this happened was in 1881, one of those years that another New York reader thinks should be called a palindromannum. Consider: In every century of this millennium, we have been treated to only one palindromannum – 1001,1111,1221 and so on – at intervals of 110 years. But we fortunate humans have the prospect of two such years almost within a decade. The year 2002 is just around the corner. We live in interesting times'. – William Safire"

Published in The Hindu on March 5, 1991.

Word of the day

Rapport:
a relationship of mutual understanding or trust and agreement between people

Synonym: resonance

Usage: *He established a good rapport with the boss.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/rapportpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɹæˈpɔɹ/, /ɹæˈpoʊɹ/, /ɹəˈpoʊɹ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Rangla Punjab FESTIVAL

Welcomes You

23rd to 29th February 2024, Amritsar

BHAGWANT SINGH MANN
Chief Minister, Punjab

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
23 February	6:30 PM onwards	Opening Ceremony	Khalsa College
24-25 February	10:30AM -12:30PM	Literature Festival	Partition Museum
24 -25 February	4:00PM - 6:00PM	Carnival Parade	Day 1: Red Cross - Ranjeet Avenue Ground Day 2: Trillium Mall - Ranjeet Avenue Ground
24-29 February	11:00AM - 5:00PM	Seva Street	Townhall Heritage Street
24-29 February	11:00AM - 10:00PM	Foodistan & Shopping Festival	Ranjeet Avenue Ground
24-29 February	7:00PM - 8:30PM	Digital Fest	Summer Palace
24-25 & 27-29 February	7:00PM onwards	Taal Chowk	Ranjeet Avenue Ground
25 February	7:00AM - 9:00AM	Greenathon	Anand Amrit Park - Sadda Pind
26 February	7:00PM onwards	Punjabi Folk Night	Gobindgarh Fort
29 February	6:30PM onwards	Closing Ceremony	Ranjeet Avenue Ground

NA/13/775/2023/32651

Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Punjab

Siddaramaiah terms five guarantees 'good economics'

We will impose tax on rich people as per law and the collected taxes will be used for the poor, he says; BJP and JD(S) stage walkout, terming CM's reply a 'political speech' ahead of LS elections

IN THE LEGISLATURE

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday termed the State government's five guarantees as "good economics" and said taxes are being collected from the rich for the empowerment of the poor.

In his reply to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address , Mr. Siddaramaiah in the Legislative Assembly said: "I believe in good economics." A sum of ₹52,009 crore has been set aside for implementation of five guarantees in the State Budget for 2024-25. "We are giving economic and social strength to the poor. This is good economics. This is the economics of self-respect," he said.

"The five guarantees - Stree Shakti, Anna Bhagya, Gruha Jyothi, Gruha Lakshmi and Yuva Nidhi - will cover the poor, Dalits, backward classes and minorities without discrimination on the basis of caste or on religious lines," he said.

"There are no middlemen in the delivery of guarantee schemes. All benefits reach the eligible beneficiaries' account through DBT," the Chief Minister said.

"We will impose tax on rich people as per law and collected taxes will be used for the poor." Mr. Siddaramaiah said the government kept ₹ 39,000 crore in 2023-24 for the flagship programmes.

'What is Siddanomics?'

The Chief Minister said JD (S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had coined the term "Siddanomics" to describe his model of State development. "I don't know what that is. There are no books like that. There is only good and bad economics. Is there Basavarajnomics? Kumaraswamynomics?" Mr. Siddaramaiah asked.

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said Mr. Kumaraswamy has given a new brand to his model of economic development and the Chief Minister should take it as a compliment.

On corporate tax

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who has tabled 15 Budgets, said corporate tax was 30% during the UPA government, led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reduced the corporate tax to 22.5%, he said, and asked, "In whose support is the BJP government?"

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who also holds the finance portfolio, rebutted the Opposition's charge that the government had rolled out a "bundle of lies" through the Governor's address to the legislature and said the Governor has spoken the truth. "Our guarantees have reached people. In fact, people know that there is no substance in the Opposition's allegations."

On Opposition Leader in the Assembly R. Ashok's charge that the Congress government was a "broken-down vehicle", Mr. Siddaramaiah said the BJP administration between 2019 and 2023 was "a hate-filled, rusted bus that emitted poisonous smoke" and the people voted out the BJP.

He also said that the law and order was good in the State and the state had attracted ₹77,000 crore investment during the last nine months.

Mr. Siddaramaiah reiterated his charges against the Central government on devotion of taxes, non-release of drought relief and non-release funds for the Upper Bhadra Project.

A whopping ₹4.3 lakh crore taxes was collected from the State in 2023-24 but the State was expecting only ₹50,027 crore, the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also took a dig at Mr. Kumaraswamy on his remark that the government adopted a confrontationist approach with the Centre and said the State has every right to seek justice under the federal government.

The State has been receiving only ₹13 for every ₹100 collected from the people in the form of IT, GST, cess and surcharges, he said.

The State government had written 17 letters to the Union Ministers but it had received reply to only one letter on seeking drought relief.

"How can we call it confrontation?" The entire house should demand drought relief from the Centre, he said. Out of 236 taluks, 223 taluks have been declared as drought in the State. The House passed the motion of thanks to the Governor's address. The Opposition BJP members shouted slogans against the Government and termed the Chief Minister reply as a "political speech" ahead of Lok Sabha elections and staged a walkout.

The JD(S) members too followed the BJP.

Bommai's challenge to State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaking in the Legislative Assembly. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday challenged the government to withdraw below poverty line (BPL) cards if more than five crore people of the State entered "middle class status" because of implementation of five guarantees - Shakti, Anna Bhagya, Gruha Jyothi, Gruha Lakshmi and Yuva Nidhi - by the State government.

Intervening during Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's reply on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address to the joint session of the State legislature, Mr. Bommai accused the government of "telling lies" to the people through the Governor's address, where it was stated that more than five crore people were coming out of the poverty line and rising to the middle class status owing to guarantees schemes.

Mr. Bommai said incentive of ₹5 per litre of milk amounting to ₹757 crore to 8.65 lakh milk producers had not been transferred. The incentive has not been paid for six months, he added.

The government has claimed that it had fulfilled 97% of announcements made in the last year's Budget. Mr. Bommai said only notifications have been issued and works have not yet started. The government said that ₹3,000 crore had been earmarked for the Kalyana Karnataka Development Board and action plan had been approved for 5,468 works. But only a few works were completed till last year. The incumbent government had claimed the achievements of the previous BJP government as its achievements, the former Chief Minister alleged.

On the Centre's delay in the release of ₹5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project, Mr. Bommai said the State government has not submitted a proposal as per procedure to avail funding under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Centre would release funds if the latter followed the procedure, Mr. Bommai said.

Govt. to hold meeting with Infosys on non-utilisation of land

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Tuesday said that he would convene a meeting with IT major Infosys Ltd. to discuss non-utilisation of land allotted by KIADB in Hubballi.

Responding to a question from BJP member S.V. Sankanur, the Minister said that as per the conditions of allotment, the company was to have used the allotted land parcel of 43.05 acres and generate employment for 1,000 people within two years of allotment as per the original condition. The land was allotted in January 2015, he added.

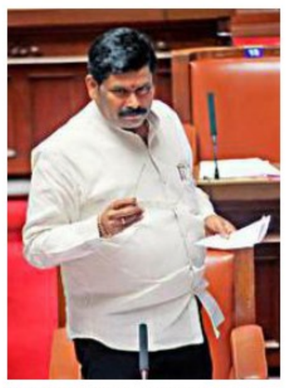
Only 280 jobs

"So far, they have utilised 20 acres and have generated employment for 280 persons. I will convene a meeting with them to see what plans they have for the remaining land and generation of employment besides overall development of the region. If they are not interested in developing the land, we will issue notice and take the remaining land back," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Sankanur pointed out that though allotment of prime land near the airport was made nine years ago at a cost of ₹50 lakh per acre, the company had failed to develop the land besides failing to adhere to the original land allotment conditions. "It was widely believed that the arrival of Infosys in Hubballi would help in development of North Karnataka. Since the company has failed to comply with the conditions, will the government take back the land?" he asked.

Minister bemoans meagre allocation to Kannada research

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi speaking in the Legislatve Council. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi on Tuesday expressed disappointment over meagre funds released for research and development of Kannada after it was declared as a classical language.

What Hindi gets

Speaking in the Legislative Council on Tuesday during the discussion on the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024, that was later passed unanimously, the Minister said that while Hindi received ₹ 1,000 crore, Kannada received a meagre ₹3 crore for research.

"There has been grave injustice in this issue. Let there be discussion on it," he said. When the Leader of the Opposition Kota Srinivas Poojary suggested that this discussion should be taking place in Parliament, the Minister pointed out that there were 25 BJP members of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to mandate 60% usage of Kannada in signboards displayed by commercial establishments across the State. The Bill had been earlier passed by the Legislative Assembly. "The establishment violating the norm will lose its trade licence during renewal. Penalty will also be imposed. An enforcement wing will be set up to monitor the implementation,. A mobile app will be developed to enable citizens to lodge complaints," Mr. Tangadagi said.

Job reservation

Meanwhile, on the issue of job reservation to Kannadigas, the Minister said that every industry will be asked to display a dashboard that would provide details on total jobs in the industry and and jobs given to Kannadigas as well as non-Kannadigas.

BJP objects to payment of aid to jumbo attack victim in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government announcing compensation of ₹15 lakh to the family of a person from Wayanad in Kerala, who died following an attack by an elephant from the State, has now triggered a controversy.

Opposition BJP questioned the rationale behind the move and released a letter to show that it was done at the behest of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

A release by the Forest Department had explained that the decision to pay compensation to Ajeesh, who died in the elephant attack in Wayanad, had been taken in view of a request from the elected representatives and the government of Kerala.

On social media platform X, BJP Karnataka unit president B.Y. Vijayendra posted a letter by Karnataka Forest Minister to Rahul Gandhi, who is an MP from Kerala. In the letter, the Minister informs that he has released compensation, as per the advise of AICC general secretary Rahul Gandhi, after taking consent from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

"The Karnataka government's outrageous misuse of Karnataka taxpayers' funds to curry favour with Rahul Gandhi is utterly disgraceful," he said. Amidst 'crippling drought', the Congress government 'shamelessly prioritises pleasing Rahul Gandhi' over addressing the State's urgent needs.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his cohorts must be held accountable for unethically looting Karnataka taxpayers' money & State treasury to cater to Congress High Command's greed," he posted on X.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok said: "Is Karnataka the personal property of the Congress to release funds from Kannadigas' tax to Kerala victim?"

MSP proposed for dry grapes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has sent a proposal to the Centre to announce minimum support price for dry grapes to support farmers affected by the decline in prices.

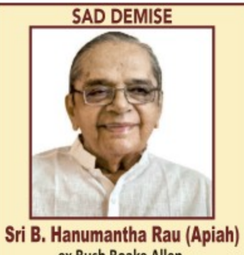
Minister Shivanand Patil told the Legislative Council that the State government has proposed MSP for dry grapes as the prices had declined over the previous years, and that the State was yet to hear from the Centre.

On the demand to supply dry grapes to schoolchildren, the Minister said that the government will consider it to meet their nutritional needs.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



Sri B. Hanumantha Rau (Apiah)
ex Bush Boake Allen,
Passed away peacefully on 20th February.
Cremation at 9.30 am on 21st Feb morning.

Mourned by the FAMILY
Ct: 9655330111, 9773080395

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of general public that our client is interested in purchasing Residential Converted Various vacant site numbers, carved out of Converted land bearing Sy No.25, more fully described in the 'Schedule Property' from **M/s. WoodsVille Projects Pvt. Ltd,** Having its registered office at Row House No.1, Gold field Enclaves, South Main Road, Koregoan park, Pune-411001.
Any person/s claiming to have any right, title or interest in and over the Schedule Property or any part thereof detailed below or has any objection to the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property, should lodge his or her claim or objections, if any, in writing, supported by authentic documentary evidence to the undersigned, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our client will proceed to conclude the purchase of the Schedule Property and any claims or objections lodged and received after the expiry of the above stipulated period will not be binding on our client in any manner.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT the piece and parcel of the 1,54,000 (One Lakh Sixty Thousand) Sq. feet of various vacant site numbers, carved out of Converted land bearing Sy No.25, measuring an extent 7.09.00 (Seven Acre Nine Guntas), Converted for residential purpose, Vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(A) SR.44/2011-12, dated 27.08.2011, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore, situated at **M. Medahalli VILLAGE,** Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, and **East By:** Road, **West By:** Land belonging to Mr.Muniyappa, **North By:** Land belonging to Mr.Marappa, **South By:** Land belonging to Mr.Venkataswamy

PRECINCT LEGAL
No.43, TNT Tower, Unit No.S-2,
Infantry, Bangalore - 560001
Mob: 9448735360, 8050944340,63638 67979
Place: Bangalore Date: 12.02.2024

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/13117-19 Date: 19.02.2024

Tender Notification (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites e-bids against Enquiry **No: KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/Survey-366/CALL-03, Date: 19.02.2024** for **Combined package of conducting detailed survey using modern survey techniques for construction of following proposed 400kV & 220kV lines in Mandya District.:**

(1) Double LILO from proposed **400kV ChikkaNayakanahalli (CN halli)-Kadakola** double circuit 400kV Quad moose line to proposed 400/220kV receiving station at Hampapura in Mandya Taluk & District with Quad moose Conductor for a distance of about **30kms**.

(2) 220kV DC line from proposed 400/220kV Hampapura R/s station to existing **220/66kV Nagamangala R/s** for a distance of **25kms**.

(3) 220kV DC line from proposed 400/220kV Hampapura receiving station to proposed **220/66kV Maddur R/s** for a distance of **30kms**.

(4) 220kV DC line from proposed 400/220kV Hampapura receiving station to existing **220/66kV Tubinakere R/s**for a distance of **23kms**.

(5) 220kV DC line from proposed 400/220kV Hampapura R/s station to existing **220/66kV Huygonahalli R/s**(K.R.Pete) for a distance of **58kms.**

The tender for the above work is invited through KPPP mode.The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the KPPP process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link **"E Procurement KPTCL"** OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **21.02.2024**. Any other details can be had from the Office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, F.T.S. compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570007.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Work Indent & IFT No.	Amount put to tender (in Rs.)
1.	Construction of Computer Center and Tutorial room for Government Polytechnic College at Kadur in Chikkamagaluru District under SDP 2022-23 Scheme.	Tender Reference No. KHB/2023-24/ BD/ WORK_INDENT 75/CALL-2 & IFT No. 20/2023-24 Date: 16.02.2024	48,01,414/-

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID: 02.03.2024 UP TO 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned Office Address:
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
Telephone No.: 080-22273511 / 080-22100077. Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/YC/3743/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KHB**

(Govt of Karnataka)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.W.D DIVISION SEDAM

No. EE/PWD/Dvn/Sed/TS- 4/2023-24/3113 Date : 17-02-2024

-:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::-

1) Details of Works:1. Total no of works 02 in Sedam taluka Indent No's are as follows: Under KKRDB 8919(SC), 8925, 2. Total no of work 02 in Chincholi taluka Indent No's are as follows: Under KKRDB 7668, SH Maintenance 3054 7879, 2) Head of Account: Under K.K.R.D.B For the year 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2023-24 and SH Maintenance 3054, 3) Amount Put to Tender : **Lowest Estimate Cost Rs. 7.65 Lakhs, Highest Estimate Cost Rs. 52.00 Lakhs,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor : Class-1 contractor & Above, 5) Last date & time for Tender Queries & receipt of tenders: **28-02-2024 - 17:30:00 Hrs**, 6) Tender Form Fee & EMD Amount: Tender processing fee & EMD As per e-portal, 7) Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **29-02-2024 - 16:00:00 Hrs**, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **02-03-2024 - 16:30:00 Hrs**, 9) Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid: **04-03-2024 - 16:30:00 Hrs**, 10) Communication Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam, 11) Internet Address: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**, 12) If any changes for Cancelation: Any Changes and cancelations are done in www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Kalaburagi/871/KSMC&A/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam**

Reminiscences of an old Bangalore boy

Deepak Sridhar's *One & Half* is part memoir, part commentary on Bengaluru, filled with small, minute details and anecdotes that have shaped and segued into the fabric of the city

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

In the introduction to his latest book, *One & Half*, Deepak Sridhar calls the city his muse, recounting things that he considers unique to it: the crisp breeze you feel on your shirt at 8 p.m., the occasional shade from a tree twice your age or the warmth from the ghee melting on your dosa. As someone who has spent nearly five-sixth of his life in Bengaluru, the now Canada-based Deepak, who, in his bio, describes himself as a corporate lawyer, Biryani delivery boy and full-time "Bangalore bar uncle" considers himself a true-blue Bengaluru boy.

Deepak Sridhar says while both the city and he have changed a lot over the years, no other place has been as generous with the *benne* on his dosa or little moments of joy. K. MURALI KUMAR

The book, in many ways, is a testament to this fact, offering a very inside view of the city through the decades. From the average Bengalurean's complicated relationship with the Queen's English and autorickshaws to the city's vibrant music, start-up and tech culture, the ubiquity of wristband-wearing uncles striding through it on their morning walk in the 90s, the aggressive school spirits of students from institutions like Josephs, Cottons and Sophias and the immortal legacy of the actor Rajkumar and his progeny, *One & Half* is filled with small, minute details and anecdotes that have shaped and segued into the fabric of Bengaluru.

Part memoir, part commentary with plenty of inside jokes thrown in, the book is, as Deepak writes, "my small tribute to this ever-changing city that millions and millions of people, including me, call home. He also admits in his acknowledgements that while both the city and he have changed a lot over the years, no other place has been as generous with the *benne* on his dosa or little moments of joy. "Please accept *maadi*."

Pandemic connection

For Deepak, who grew up in a house filled with books and always read a lot, "the idea of writing something was baking in my head," he says. But it took a while for him actually to get to it. COVID and the ensuing limbo it induced worldwide appear to have been the catalyst that triggered his writing journey.

Cut to March 2020. Deepak and his wife, who were living in Delhi back then, had planned on moving out of India and were all set to leave by May that year. "I quit my job because we thought we were leaving the country," recalls Deepak, who was supposed to spend a couple of months back home before leaving for Canada, little knowing that those two months would stretch into two years.

People go from thinking about Bangalore as this start-up city, the Silicon Valley of India, to going back to (remembering it as) a pensioner's paradise and hill station, says the author. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

"Almost three months after we moved, we figured nothing was happening," he says. Around this time, his wife signed him up for a writing course with Mumbai-based writer and podcaster Amit Varma, host of the popular weekly podcast *The Seen and the Unseen*. "When I did the course in 2020, the first thing he (Varma) said was that if I wanted to write, I should try and write as much as possible," recalls Deepak.

To sustain this writing habit, he began a weekly newsletter capturing the first year of the pandemic, the compilation of which would become his first book, *Home for the Hallidays*, which came out in 2022. Talking about the structure of this first book, which he decided to self-publish, he says it is divided into 52 chapters, one representing every week of that rather memorable time period, taking its reader on "a bumpy Bangalore auto ride through the Zeitgeist of 2020: Encounter Killings that have better plots than Race 2, Donald Trump and the horses of Philadelphia, IPL matches with no crowds, breaking a fixed deposit to buy petrol and much more."

'The city *has* evolved over the years, and there are many parts of it that I would feel alienated from,' says Deepak Sridhar (left), who believes that change of this sort is inevitable in any place. K. MURALI KUMAR

Even though it took a little longer to come out, a large chunk of *One & Half* was written around that same time, says Deepak. "Building an audience online forced me to write things ... was one way of keeping me accountable ... committed to writing," he adds, pointing out that in today's day and age, it is hard to find an audience for your writing unless you can directly reach people.

There are two sorts of people: newer entrants who find that the everyday inconveniences are offset by the opportunities and entertainment the city provides and the old-timers who mourn the cleaner, quieter city

A city in flux

If you've been in Bengaluru long enough, you're likely to have encountered two sorts of people: newer entrants who find that the everyday inconveniences of terrible traffic, bad roads, water shortages and frequent floods are easily offset by the opportunities and entertainment the city provides and the old-timers who frequently mourn the cleaner, quieter, greener city (when it was still called Bangalore) of yore.

Deepak, despite decidedly being a "local" inhabitant, does not seem to fall in either camp. While traces of nostalgia for the laid-back city of the 90s, highly cosmopolitan even back then, do occasionally seep into the book, the overall tone is remarkably forward-looking, unusual for a long-time resident of Bengaluru.

"The city *has* evolved over the years, and there are many parts of it that I would feel alienated from," agrees Deepak, who believes that change of this sort is inevitable in any place.

"I don't see the changes as being negative. I just think that enough change has happened that it is time to document all the different phases rather than think about what it used to be like.

Not dualities

According to him, people seem to paint the city in dualities often. "People go from thinking about Bangalore as this start-up city, the Silicon Valley of India, to going back to (remembering it as) a pensioner's paradise and hill station," he says. "There is this whole phase in between where you can see things changing, and that is what I was trying to capture in the book."

Despite the cultural homogeneity that has seeped into most big Indian cities, Bengaluru still continues to hold her own, in his opinion. "Even with all this crazy start-up mania, etc., it will take a lot of steroids to make Bangalore function the way Bombay does," says Deepak, who is currently working on a work of fiction. "I don't think it is a language or region thing. We have always had people from everywhere, "he says, adding that the city continues to offer certain quirks.

And yes, in spite of climate change and the rising mercury levels, the still relatively temperate climate continues to be a major Bengaluru USP. "There are still days, perhaps once in six months, when the weather inspires you to do nothing all day," says Deepak, who believes that this spoils one completely. "Any other place you go is either too hot or too cold."

Four-day music festival in city from tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Samagana Sabha will present its 15th Annual Music Festival titled "Kashi Svara Cauvery" from February 22 to 25 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall in Vyalikaval.

The four-day festival features Hindustani music by Mahesh Kale (Feb. 22), Carnatic music by Sandeep Narayan (Feb. 23), Carnatic vocal by Ramakrishna Murthy (Feb. 24), Carnatic vocal duet by Ranjanii-Gayatri on (Feb 25), daily from 7 p.m.

The festival also features concerts by Shubhendra Rao (sitar) and Suma Sudhindra (veena); Kashi Santavani by Sooryagayathri, Kashi Dhanvantri, Hindustani music (flute) by Anirban Roy at 5.30 p.m. daily from Feb 22 to 24 respectively.

The programme begins at 4.45 p.m. on Feb. 22 to 24 and on February 25, it will commence at 5 p.m.

On the concluding day of the festival on February 25, the Sabha will confer the 12th Samagana Mathanga National award to Mysore Nagaraj and Dr. Mysore Manjunath, popularly known as Mysore brothers.

Culinary journey: Bengaluru-based IDC Kitchen raises ₹1.5 crore from Peter Thiel-backed Velocity

The funds will used for marketing and other inventory-related expenses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based IDC Kitchen (Idli, Dosa, Coffee), a chain of vegetarian south Indian self-service restaurants, has secured ₹1.5 crore debt from Peter Thiel's Valar Ventures-backed financing platform Velocity.

The funds will be directed towards marketing initiatives and other inventory-related expenses, enhancing IDC's outreach and sustaining its commitment to delivering an authentic south Indian culinary experience.

Abhishek Baldota, Director of IDC - Idli Dosa Coffee, said, "As we embark on the next phase of our journey, IDC Kitchen signifies more than just a culinary service. It's a transformative culinary journey. With the support of Velocity and the unwavering love of our patrons, we are thrilled to bring the essence of south India to doorsteps across the nation. This new chapter, fueled by the recent funding from Velocity, allows us to not only maintain our high standards, but also elevate the IDC experience for our valued customers. We are passionate about redefining the dining landscape and are eager to share the authentic taste of south India with enthusiasts everywhere."

One of the IDC Kitchen outlets in Bengaluru.

Abhishek Baldota, IDC Director

Established in 2012, IDC Kitchen has been a prominent player in the quick service restaurant (QSR) space in India. Starting with a single outlet, IDC expanded to 11 locations in Bengaluru, two in Mumbai and one in Raichur. It currently records ₹30 crore in annual revenue annum.

Atul Khichariya, COO & co-founder of Velocity, said, "At Velocity, we are thrilled to contribute to the growth and success of IDC through our recent funding of ₹1.5 crore. This partnership opens up new avenues in the dynamic landscape of restaurants and QSR chains. We believe that IDC's commitment to authenticity and innovation aligns seamlessly with our vision. I am confident that this infusion of funds will not only fuel IDC's brand growth, but also set new benchmarks in the restaurant and QSR industry. We look forward to witnessing the continued success of IDC as it persistently redefines the culinary experience for patrons across India."

According to Mordor Intelligence, the QSR market size is expected to be valued at $38.71 billion (approximately ₹320,330 thousand crore) by 2029, compared to its current valuation of $25.46 billion (approximately ₹211,350 thousand crore). The rise of online food ordering and factors such as low start-up costs, ease of operations, and localised menus, are expected to drive the growth further in the coming years.

Given the favourable demand outlook, the domestic QSR industry is looking at an aggressive store capex over the medium term.

Velocity has funded a range of restaurants and cloud kitchens, including Caters Point, Brahma Brews, BurgerRama, Jamie Oliver's Pizzeria, Oven Fresh, Crave by Leena, and Smoor.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 21, 1974

Milk supply to Bangalore affected

BANGALORE, Feb. 20: The drop in the daily inflow of milk and the non-availability of milk powder has affected supply from the Bangalore Dairy to consumers in the city.

The dairy authorities have enforced a 10 per cent cut in supplies to distributing agents following the fall in the inflow from 72,000 litres a day to 65,000 litres. The cut to the distributors has resulted in consumers not getting their quota. There have also been complaints from some areas that the distributors are demanding higher rate.

The reason for the fall in inflow is attributed to the onset of summer. While in the past, the dairy used to make up the fall by reconstituting the milk using powder, this year, it may find it difficult to do so because of the non-availability of milk powder.

Mid-day meal scheme to be extended

BANGALORE, Feb. 20: The Karnataka Government has offered to give the Centre all assistance for starting a processing unit for preparing "balahar" (children's food) using indigenous food. Balahar is to be given to schoolchildren under the mid-day meal scheme.

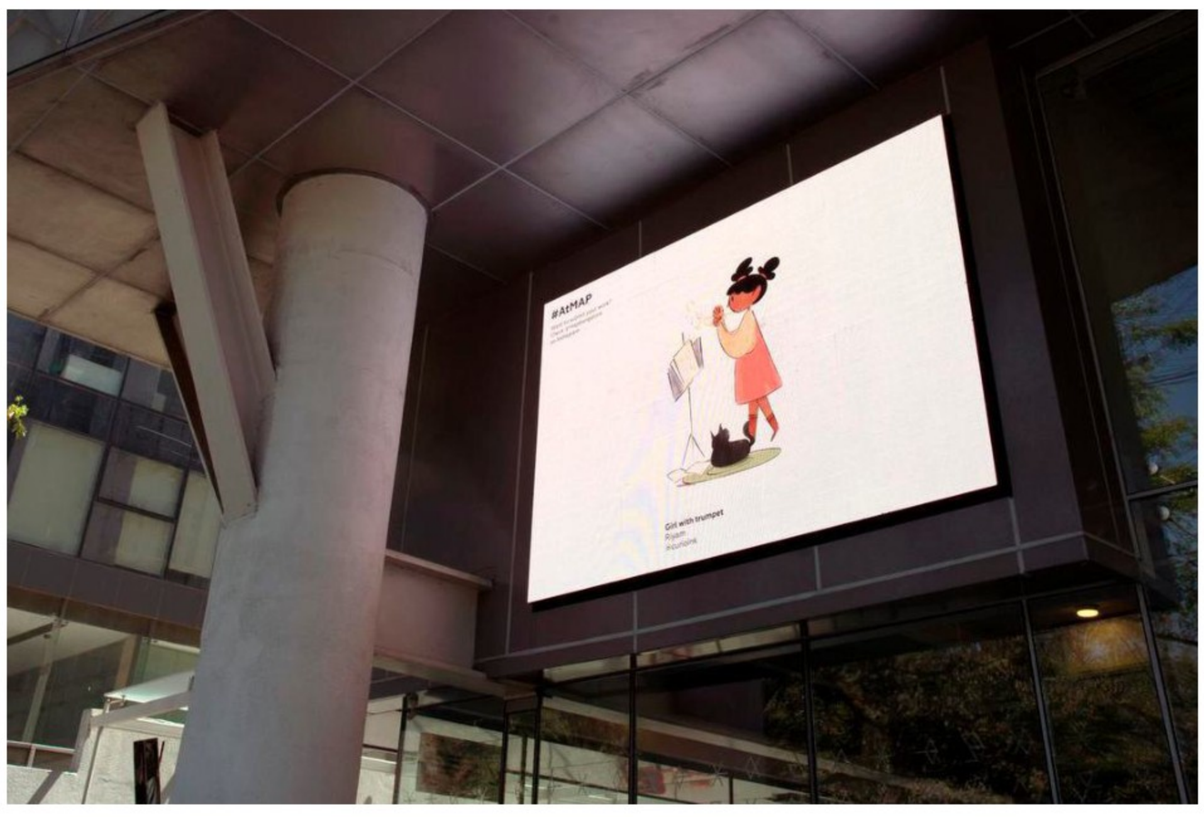
The Centre has constituted a team to review the mid-day meal schemes in different states and to suggest the location of processing units to prepare "balahar to make the scheme "self-reliant."

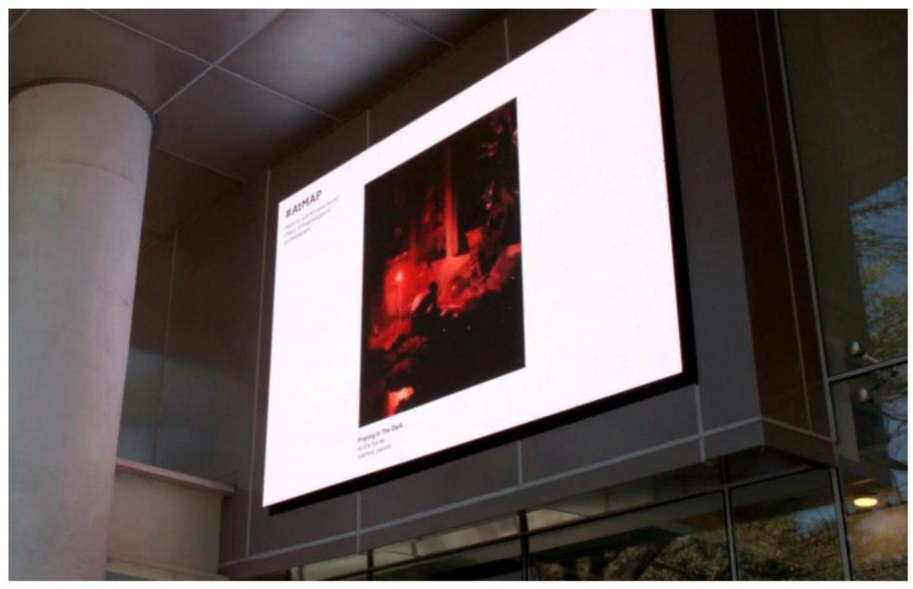
State Government officers recently had a discussion in Delhi on the mid-day meal scheme with particular reference to its expansion in the fifth plan.

How #MAP is a true showcase of art for the people, by the people

The latest initiative by Museum of Art and Photography is a celebration of their first anniversary

Rashmi Gopal Rao





Broader canvas Inviting visitors to connect their craft to the museum. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Situated on the bustling Kasturba Road, Bengaluru's Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) completes a year since opening on February 18 last year. The ethos of the museum has always been to preserve India's rich legacy of art by democratising art and culture whilst ensuring inclusivity and accessibility to diverse audiences.

In line with this objective, MAP has introduced a new initiative where they make use of their road-facing screen to showcase artwork by new artists. "Involving our community in the arts and culture scene is an important part of making MAP truly inclusive for all. Through our road-facing screen initiative, #AtMAP, we want to engage the Indian art community to directly contribute to art at the museum," says Shaina Jagtiani, Head of Communications and PR, at MAP.

"Our goal is to celebrate emerging artists and give them a chance to claim their space as well as share their unique ideas and perspectives. As an institution, we recognise our part in fostering the community by providing a platform where talent can be showcased to a larger audience," she adds.

Unique themes and community-building initiative

#AtMAP was started in December 2023, with an inaugural theme, 'New Year'. Their second theme, in line with MAP's first anniversary has been 'Birthdays', for the months of January and February 2024. As part of this initiative, MAP solicits entries from artists who submit their artwork with a description with their perspective, understanding and interpretation of the theme.

"This description allows us to have a well-rounded appreciation for the works submitted. Post a larger deliberation, shortlisted works are selected to be displayed. However, as we strongly believe that art is subjective, we are actively trying to come up with new ideas to showcase all the works we receive. This can be done through our social media platforms or through our newsletter," says Shaina.

> Involving our community in the arts and culture scene is an important part of making MAP truly inclusive for all
> SHAINA JAGTIANI

She further adds that another key aspect they consider are viewers who pass by the museum and look at the screen. Hence, work that would intrigue and resonate with passers-by are also chosen.

Thus, #AtMAP is an initiative created to build a community. Through such initiatives, individuals are brought together and encouraged to showcase their talents. "We believe we are a museum for the people and these activities allow individuals to see MAP as a space where they are not only welcome, but also where their artworks are as well. #AtMAP invites our audiences and visitors to connect their craft to the museum. We believe that giving these prompts also allows artists to push the boundaries of their practice to create something unique."

Diverse submissions

#AtMAP has definitely piqued the curiosity of people with varied interests and expressions, and the museum has been receiving a diverse set of submissions in terms of age groups and geographic locations, resulting in a rich pool of community artwork. From professional illustrators, to beginners trying their hand at art, their submission inbox has become a treasure trove of creative expression.

"One of the submissions we have received is a work of plastic upcycling through various media. In the artwork titled "Plastic Cityscape", the artist has used plastic wrappers to present a connection between urban development and the plastic waste it generates. This can be viewed as the rebirth of recycled plastic and hence, it fits in with our birthday theme. Another submission is a memoir, captured in a photograph of a friend preparing for someone's birthday. Yet another, is a nationally recognised painter's artwork exploring abstract wonder," explains Shaina.

Looking ahead

The #AtMAP prompt in March is expected to be vintage postcards, focusing on love, joy and the sending of news. The museum which was ranked one of the top 20 cultural spots by National Geographic in its annual 'Best of the World 2024' list, will be collaborating with Smoor for their first anniversary. A curated dessert, which is expected to literally be art on a plate, will be launched to commemorate MAP's anniversary, at three Smoor outlets in the city – Lavelle Road, Indiranagar and Whitefield.

STREET TREATS

Paddus that pack a punch

Shilpa Anandraj

A dash of health and taste Valliamma makes everything from scratch. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

If you live in Vidyaranyapura, then a brisk evening walk is sure to land you at the first block, which houses a range of food trucks once the sun sets. The trucks are parked at short intervals right from a little ahead of the Bell White Square Apartment to All Seasons Mart.

If you think a walk in this area is an ideal way to lose weight you might as well give up on that idea right away. When you reach the first block, you are sweaty and famished and, the aroma from the various food trucks is a sure shot invitation to indulge. The best part is you can pamper yourself from the select menu that any one truck offers or make the walk back a return buffet experience by grabbing a bite at every food truck that captivates your cravings. We pass the *falooda* truck, the tender coconut water seller and then a few more steps and we land right in front of Mom's Paddu Stall. It is the tiniest of food carts on this road, but the busiest of the lot.

Valliamma, the 52-year-old lady who started this enterprise two years ago, runs it efficiently. She stands close to a stove placed over burning coals, leaning backwards as her hands deftly pour out the rice and fenugreek batter onto the large iron mould. Her husband, Shekhar, fans the coals to keep the fire and wood burning. Valliamma, waits for a minute and then dips her ladle into an aluminium box and douses the *paddus* with ghee all the while smiling and making polite conversation with her customers.

Before starting the *paddu* stall, Valliamma "was selling *bondas* and *bajjis* in Thindlu circle. I gave it up when I had to stay home to help my children with their studies. Once their education was done, I worked as a tailor in a garment factory, but the long hours of sitting took a toll on my legs and feet and I had to give that up too," says Valliamma as she uses a long aluminium pin to turn the half-cooked *paddus* in their mould and douse them with more ghee.

"That is when I decided to start a food stall again. I did not want to serve unhealthy snacks. My mother is a brilliant cook. We come from a rural background where we cook fresh and healthy food. Packaged and oily food is something we avoid. Since I learnt cooking from her, I decided to sell *paddus*. It is not only filling but also healthy and there is no one in this area that sells *paddus*."

Valliamma picks the *paddus* with the long pin again and drops them into a plastic plate, which she hands to Shekhar, who with precision and speed, dips a ladle into a bucket and draws out a red chutney and pours it on to the plate, then again into the next bucket and draws out a green chutney and hands the plates to the hungry customers. Valliamma makes the *paddu* batter from scratch and are served with a tomato and mint chutney.

A plate comes with six *paddus* and is priced at ₹40. Apart from *paddu*, Valliamma also sells mushroom *biryani*, priced at ₹60 a plate. Valliamma says she puts up her stall around 5pm and closes once everything is sold. Shekar, Valliamma says helps tremendously. "Besides selling at the stall, there are a lot of takeaways that we cater to."

EATING OUT

Feast for the eye and soul A glimpse of the menu at North Star Cafe SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For coffee and conversations

Priyamedha Dutta

Tucked away in HRS layout, North Star Café emerges as a beacon of sustainability in the bustling café scene of the city. Whether one prefers coffee on the go or a cosy sit-down experience, this freshly minted café by Devanshi Tripathi promises to satiate the desire of all café enthusiasts. From ethically sourcing the beans from small and medium-scale farmers to sustainable packaging, Devanshi's venture is a way of "promoting local roasters and suppliers who prioritize sustainability."

North Star Cafe
Hits: Eggs Benedict
Misses: None
Pocket Pinch for two: ₹400

The decor is a blend of minimalism, modernity and luxury, setting itself apart from the conventional grey and wooden palettes.

At North Star, sustainability is the hero ingredient, "We have adopted eco-friendly and biodegradable packing options. Biodegradable cups, lids, boxes, paper bags and straws are made from materials such as cornstarch or recycled paper to help minimize the environmental impact of disposable items," says Devanshi. Even the coffee beans are composted to minimize the overall waste generation.

The menu provides a unique dining experience, balancing the need for quick bites with comforting flavours that blend seamlessly with their wide variety of coffee options. The coffee comes from around the world like Italian Café Shakeratto, the Indian Bellada Style Coffee, and the Mexican Café de Olla.

We tried the Vietnamese-styled iced coffee, the fresh aroma of freshly brewed coffee reminiscent of the lively markets of Vietnam. The tri-star coffee, which incorporates coffee, in-house chocolate and whiskey shots is a different take on regular espressos and lattes. The food is equally delightful we tried their eggs benedict, the classic New York breakfast dish with toast and poached egg topped with a creamy sauce is the one dish that really stood out. We also tried their avocado toast, perfect for an all-day breakfast option.

For dessert, we opted for the lotus biscoff croissant, the flaky croissant with biscoff creme. A must-try in North Star. We ended our desert hunt with tiramisu pancake with vanilla mascarpone cream, savoiardi biscuit crumbs topped with coffee syrup is a sweet flavour bomb in your mouth.

CITYBEATS

Corporate satire on stage

FEBRUARY 21
ArtMantram presents a corporate satire, *Turnaround* as part of the ongoing Karnataka Kalotsava.
The play is based on a short story by Sriram Iyer, adapted and directed by Prakash Belawadi and will be staged by the group Centre for Film and Drama.
At Bangalore International Centre Auditorium (BIC), 7pm. It is open to all.

Introductory workshop

FEBRUARY 24, 25
Attend a two-day introductory level theatre workshop called Facing the Wall (Theatre of Oppressed Workshop). The process will include playmaking, forum theatre and facilitation leading into a collective building and the workshop will culminate into few forum plays.
At Lahe Lahe, 10am onwards. Bookings on BookMyShow and venue.

Book launch

FEBRUARY 24
The book, *The Woman on the Red Oxide Floor, by* Shikhandin, will be launched in the city. Published by Red River Story, an imprint of Red River, India, this book is the third in the series.
In this book, the cosmic and the material, human world flow into each other, at times at cross currents.
At Atta Galatta, 6pm. Call 9632510126.

Karnataka HC issues notice to State, CBI on plea by Soujanya's father seeking fresh probe

Petitioner seeks direction to CBI to constitute SIT and book three alleged accused persons who were earlier named before the trial court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered the issue of notice to the State government and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on a petition seeking a fresh investigation into the 2012 case of rape and murder of 17-year-old Soujanya, who was a student of SDM College, Ujire, near Dharmasthala, in Dakshina Kannada district.

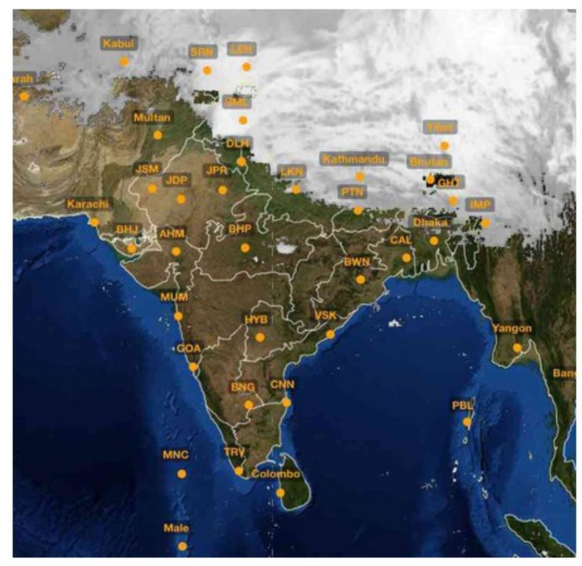
Justice K. Natarajan passed the order recently on the petition filed by Chandappa Gowda, father of the victim.

To Division Bench

The court also ordered placing the petition before the Chief Justice for posting it before a Division Bench as per the request made by the advocate for the petitioner. The advocate had requested the court to tag the petition along with an appeal, filed by the CBI against the trial court's verdict of acquitting the sole accused, which is pending consideration before a Division Bench. While contending that Santosh Rao, who was acquitted by the trial court in June 2023, was not the person who had committed the alleged crime, the petitioner has sought a direction to the CBI to constitute a special investigation team and book three alleged accused persons, who were earlier named before the trial court, and prosecute them as per the law. The petitioner had claimed that the CBI's investigation did not attempt to unearth the faults committed by the original investigation officer attached to the Belthangady police station in nabbing the real culprits, and the subsequent investigation and chargesheet filed by the investigation officer of the Criminal Investigation Department of the State government. Also, the petitioner sought a direction to the State government to initiate action against the investigation officer, who failed to conduct a proper investigation at the initial stage soon after the registration of the case, as per the observations made by the trial court in its order. The victim's father in 2018 filed a petition seeking a re-investigation and the High Court in 2021 dismissed this petition. The High Court had also set aside the order of the trial court, which had arraigned three other persons as accused based on an application filed by victim's father.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds/hailstorm likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.6	15.7	Kozhikode	—	35.2	26.6
Ahmedabad	—	32.5	20.4	Kurnool	—	37.4	22.6
Aizawl	—	28.5	10.4	Lucknow	—	30.0	15.2
Allahabad	—	32.2	15.0	Madurai	—	35.2	23.5
Bengaluru	—	33.0	19.4	Mangaluru	—	33.2	23.5
Bhopal	—	32.8	16.6	Mumbai	—	32.9	20.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.0	22.1	Mysuru	—	—	13.9
Chandigarh	10.2	24.8	15.9	New Delhi	2.6	28.1	14.7
Chennai	—	32.5	24.1	Patna	—	30.1	14.4
Coimbatore	—	34.2	22.2	Port Blair	—	31.0	21.8
Dehradun	4	25.6	12.8	Puducherry	—	33.2	23.2
Gangtok	—	14.8	7.4	Pune	—	34.3	13.0
Goa	—	31.6	22.4	Raipur	—	34.4	21.7
Guwahati	—	27.4	12.4	Ranchi	—	30.1	18.0
Hubballi	—	36.0	19.0	Shillong	—	18.3	7.4
Hyderabad	—	34.7	19.7	Shimla	14.2	15.0	3.9
Imphal	—	24.7	6.1	Srinagar	29	3.0	-0.7
Jaipur	—	29.1	18.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.6	24.5
Kochi	—	33.2	26.2	Tiruchi	—	34.5	22.6
Kohima	—	18.5	7.0	Vijayawada	—	34.2	21.0
Kolkata	—	31.6	24.7	Visakhapatnam	—	31.5	23.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.19	..17	.46	...161	...107	
Bengaluru	.10	..17	.23	86	...115	
Chennai	...4	..21	.62	...140	...137	
Delhi	.22	..97	.64	...292	...215	
Hyderabad	...4	..29	.30	63	...104	
Kolkata	.26	..22	.33	89	...103	
Lucknow	...3	..40	.53	...145	...147	
Mumbai	...2	..27	.18	93	...154	
Pune	.89	112	113	62	76	
Visakhapatnam	.11	..51	.30	...102	...126	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nalbari, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 337 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 34

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Two petitioners from Kodagu get HC stay on new rules for surrendering wildlife articles

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the Wildlife (Protection and Surrender of Undeclared Wildlife or Animal Article, trophy, or uncured trophy) (Karnataka) Rules, 2024, and restrained the authorities from carrying out further proceedings based on this rule till March 18 in respect of two petitioners from Kodagu district. Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on a petition filed by Ranji Poonacha P.A. of Virajpet and K.A. Kuttappa of Napoklu in Madikeri taluk.

The petitioners have questioned the legality of the Rules, notified on January 10, 2024, giving 90 days to the public to surrender undeclared wildlife or animal articles, trophy, or uncured trophy, if the same was not declared within 30 days as per the notification issued when the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, was brought into force 50 years ago.

The new rule was introduced after the recent episode of several prominent persons allegedly possessing tiger claws.

Kodavas possess them

"The Rules are illegal, without authority in law," it has been contended in the petition.

It has been pointed out in the petition that a large number of Kodavas possess several types of wildlife articles that are mainly inherited from their forefathers and possession of such article by inheritance is permitted in the 1972 Act. However, the provision of the Rules is contrary to the Act as it mandates all persons to surrender the wildlife articles.

' Arbitrary'

The petitioners have also termed the Rules as arbitrary as it strangely proposes to prosecute persons, who surrender the wildlife articles in response to these Rules, if it was found that possession of such articles was contrary to the provisions of the 1972 Act.

Setback to BJP-JD(S) alliance as Puttanna retains Bangalore Teachers' constituency

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In their first electoral outing as National Democratic Alliance partners in Karnataka, the BJP and JD(S) suffered a setback on Tuesday as their nominee was defeated by P. Puttanna of the Congres, who retained his seat from the Bangalore Teachers' constituency in the Legislative Council for the fifth time.

The former Deputy Chairman of the Council and four-time MLC Mr. Puttanna polled 8,260 votes, defeating Janata Dal (Secular) candidate A.P. Ranganath by a margin of 1,507 votes. Mr. Ranganath, who lost to Mr. Puttanna for the second time in a row, polled 6,753 votes. Mr. Puttanna will get a three-year term. With the result, Mr. Puttanna has recorded wins to the Legislative Council from all the three parties. While the polling took place on February 16, counting was taken up on Tuesday.

According to the Election Commission, a total of 16,541 votes had been polled of which 1,239 were declared invalid.

The seat fell vacant as the incumbent, Mr. Puttanna, who was earlier elected to the Council on BJP ticket in 2020, quit BJP and resigned from his membership from the House to join Congress in March 2023. He later unsuccessfully contested against BJP leader S. Suresh Kumar from Rajajinagar Assembly constituency in May 2023. Before joining the BJP in 2020, Mr. Puttanna was a member of the Council elected on JD(S) ticket.

The run-up to the election saw BJP legislator from Yeshwantpur and former Minister S.T. Somashekar being accused of working for the Congress nominee instead of the NDA nominee.

Council composition

With the win, the strength of the ruling Congress will increase to 30 in the 75-member Upper House while BJP and JD(S) have 34 and 8 seats, respectively, together controlling a majority. While another seat remains vacant, the House has an Independent member and the Chairman.

THE HINDU
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ASSISTANT MANAGER (PROCUREMENT): Location: Chennai.
Candidate with 5-7 years experience in procurement of raw materials for Transformer Manufacturing.

DESIGN - 2 Positions: Location: Chennai.
a) Senior Engineer / Engineer Design (Electrical): Candidate with 3-5 years experience in Transformer Designing.
b) Senior Engineer / Engineer Design (Mechanical): Candidate with 3-5 years experience in Transformer Designing & Expertise in Inventor, AutoCAD, MS Office.

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Candidate with Min. 5 years experience in Accounts.

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SECRETARY

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS)
TNPL, a Government of Tamil Nadu Enterprise and a reputed Paper, Paper Board and Cement Manufacturing Company having its manufacturing facility at Karur and Trichy Districts with a turnover of more than ₹5000 Crores, intends to hire a Senior Operations Professional on regular basis.

Reservation	GT (General Turn)
Job Title	Head of Operations responsible for Paper Mill, Pulp & Paper Board Mill and Cement Manufacturing Unit, reporting to the CMD.
Qualification	First class full time Graduate in Engineering Degree from a recognized University / Institute. (or) Full time Science Degree with First class full time Post Graduate Diploma in Pulp & Paper Technology.
Age	Maximum 57 years as on 01/02/2024
Experience	Minimum 32 years post-qualification experience in a large sized Engineering / Process / Manufacturing plant in which minimum 3 years experience as Head of Operations in a large sized Pulp & Paper industry, as on 01/02/2024. The incumbent will be responsible for Planning, Co-ordination & Operations of Paper Machine, Pulp Mill, Chemical Plant and Utilities. The incumbent should have adequate Leadership Potential, Project Execution skills and understanding capacity of the upcoming technologies. **Experience may be relaxed upto 3 years for deserving candidates.**
Location	Paper Mill (TNPL Unit-I), Kagithapuram, Karur District and Integrated Pulp and Paper Board Mill (TNPL Unit-II), Mondipatti, Manapparai (Taluk), Trichy District.
Pay	Pay & Perks have been revised recently and will be commensurate with qualification and experience.

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Calm assessment

Clarity on the nature and extent of 'deemed forest' is essential

The Supreme Court of India has put on pause an ambitious effort by the Centre to amend India's Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, that was brought in to check the wanton razing of forests for 'non-forestry uses'. According to the Centre, an estimated four million hectares of forest land had been diverted from 1951-75. Under the provisions of the Act, forests could no longer be diverted without adhering to a regulatory mechanism by the Centre. As a measure of its success, the Centre calculates that from 1981-2022, the average annual diversion of forest had reduced to about 22,000 hectares, or about a tenth of what it was from 1951-75. However, the provisions of this piece of legislation largely applied to forest tracts recognised as such by the India Forest Act, or any other State legislation. Illegal timber-felling in Gudalur, Tamil Nadu, triggered the landmark T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad judgment that saw the Court take an expanded view of forest tracts worthy of protection. It also said that forests had to be protected irrespective of how they were classified and who owned them. This brought in the concept of 'deemed forests,' or tracts that were not officially classified as such in government or revenue records. States were asked to constitute expert committees to identify such 'deemed forests.' In the 28 years that have passed since the judgment, only a handful of States have constituted such committees or made public the extent of such 'deemed forests' within their territories.

The Centre's attempt to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act was ostensibly to bring "clarity" as there were large tracts of recorded forest land that had already been put to non-forestry uses, with the permission of State governments. There is apparently, the Centre says, a reluctance among private citizens to cultivate private plantations and orchards, despite their significant ecological benefits, for fear that they would be classified as 'forest' (and thus render their ownership void). India's ambitions to create a carbon sink of 2.5 billion-3 billion tonnes, to meet its net zero goals have required forest laws to be "dynamic" and, therefore, the rules have sought to remove 'deemed forest,' not already recorded as such, from the ambit of protection. This has triggered a slew of public interest petitions as, on the face of it, the amendments appear as an assault on the Act's ambition of forest protection. While a final judgment is pending, the Court's order to the Centre to compile and make public, by April, States' efforts at recording the extent of deemed forests is welcome. At this point it is mere conjecture on the part of the Centre that India's carbon sink is being impeded due to insufficient private initiative. Only a dispassionate assessment of ground realities can drive forward this very important debate.

Keep it wholesome

National cervical cancer control scheme must be made accessible to all

Health is seldom uni-dimensional, and it must not be seen as such. Government policy, particularly, must fathom the entirety of the issue, and assimilate multiple aspects in a field strategy, for optimum realisation of the intended goal. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement during the presentation of the interim Budget that the government plans to encourage vaccination against cervical cancer for girls aged nine to 14, is no doubt a step in the right direction. While the scheme will be fleshed out post elections, it is also time to question if any programme to handle cervical cancer would be wholesome if it did not assimilate a screening aspect. Cancer of the cervix (literally, the neck of the womb) is unique among cancers because almost all the cases (99%, according to the World Health Organization) are linked to infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV), a common virus transmitted through sexual contact. While most HPV infections resolve spontaneously and the women remain symptom-free, persistent infection can lead to cervical cancer. It is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women in India (over 77,000 annually), and is estimated to be the second most frequent cancer among Indian women between 15 and 44 years. While the good news is couched in the availability of a vaccine, the sobering fact is that the average national prevalence of cervical cancer screening hovers at just under 2% and outcomes depend on the stage of detection.

Ironically, cervical cancer can be easily diagnosed in a public health setting with minimal tools – the human eye, a dilution of white vinegar, and a dab of Lugol's iodine. These are known as VIA and VILI tests and help look for precancerous lesions and cancer, much before an advanced stage of the disease can be picked up with cytology. A simple, short procedure, cryotherapy, can then be done while the patient is awake, to destroy the abnormal growth. Given that it is easy to prevent, identify and treat cervical cancer, it is unacceptable that so many women are dying of the disease. As the government rolls out its vaccination programme, it must also mandate screening right at the primary health centre, and if abnormalities are identified, offer cryotherapy right then. It is unlikely that vaccination of young girls alone will have a far-reaching impact in the short and medium term. The only way to prevent deaths is to deploy the entire assembly of tools as part of a national cervical cancer control programme, accessible to all women, irrespective of age, education, affordability or social status.

The real threat to the 'India as we know it'

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

With the 17th Lok Sabha having ended, the stage is now set for the general election. The final session of Parliament, unfortunately, proved to be as divisive as several of the previous sessions, with both the ruling and the Opposition parties trading charges and conceding no quarter to each other. This unseemly spectacle has given rise to concerns about the future of parliamentary democracy in the country.

We in India have been more fortunate than many other countries in being able to sustain democracy, and in earning a reputation of adherence to the best of parliamentary practices. The Constitution of India, one of the finest written Constitutions to be found anywhere in the world, includes among other Articles, a set of Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties of its citizens and the Directive Principles of State Policy, which have been our safeguards in sustaining democracy. Looking at the current decline in parliamentary practices, people, however, worry whether Parliament can be depended upon to sustain a stable democracy in the future.

This situation has nothing to do with India's external or internal dynamics. India is today better placed than it has been for many decades in connection with these two points. The global political environment may be murky, but India has hardly been impacted adversely, notwithstanding the ongoing war in Ukraine, the turmoils in West Asia and other similar tensions. China remains a matter of concern demanding extreme vigilance, but it does not pose an immediate threat. Pakistan, embroiled in its internal problems, is hardly a threat to India.

The internal dynamics, no doubt, are more problematic, but India has been fortunate, of late, to be spared of facing major terror attacks. There are quite a few internal security issues that lurk just below the surface. While some defy early solution, they are not insoluble. The farmers' agitation in the Punjab and Haryana has, no doubt, the potential to turn into a 'prairie fire', but if handled properly, can be controlled. The northeast region remains unsettled, with Manipur representing a microcosm of the problems that have plagued this region for years. But again, it is manageable. Communal violence is under check, even though communal tensions could be exacerbated in an election year. Left-wing extremist violence is at a low ebb as of now, even though it could see a revival in an election year.

A 'divided' nation

What is a matter of concern though is that the country today appears more divided than it has at any time in the recent past. The Prime Minister himself has been constrained to observe that the Opposition is creating a "North-South Divide and that the Opposition was speaking the language of breaking the country". He has levelled serious charges against the Congress, stating that it was intent on "creating a divide among people in the name of caste, language and religion". During the interim Budget session in Parliament, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman went to the extent of personally attacking the former Finance Minister and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, of having failed to discharge his responsibilities adequately during his tenure, and of failing the nation in its hour of need. Not to be left behind, the Opposition has been pouring vitriol on the Treasury benches, accusing them of vitiating the atmosphere in Parliament and of violating existing guidelines concerning parliamentary practice and conduct. In an election year, it is not unexpected, or unknown, for political parties to trade barbs. It is, however, the element of viciousness that is seen in these exchanges, which does not augur well for either Parliament or the nation. This departure from past parliamentary traditions has resulted in a widening of the gulf between the ruling party and the entire Opposition. This is most regrettable.

> That the country appears more divided than it has at any time in the recent past, and this worsening in the run-up to the general election, is cause for concern

The impact of a polarised politics

On the eve of what is being posited as possibly the most critical election in this century, politics is highly polarised and is further exacerbating divisive tendencies. No issues appear beyond the pale when carving out winning strategies and ensuring bigger victory margins. Even the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya – which most Indians have welcomed – has become an election issue, with both Houses of Parliament passing a resolution terming the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya as ushering in a "new era of governance and public welfare". The spectre of 'Hindu majoritarianism', whether intended or not, thus looms large in the minds of sections of the public, alongside a perception that 'Mandir' defines the nature of politics in an election year.

Federalism, on which the Constitution-makers placed great store, is becoming a victim of this situation. While some aspects could be viewed as symptomatic of the steady and gradual decline in democratic practices over the years, there is a difference today, and possibly some substance in the Opposition charge that the ruling dispensation at the Centre is breaching the federal principle with impunity. The Opposition charge sheet includes aspects such as attempts to enforce an Uniform Civil Code, alongside manifest attempts to push through the concept of 'One Nation, One Election', possibly intended to undermine the role of regional parties.

Defections have been a major bane of Indian politics, but engineered defections, particularly of the kind being reported in this election year, are making a mockery of democracy and electoral politics. More to the point, ongoing efforts to induce members to change sides through inducements are undermining the entire election system. A rash of defections have occurred which includes top leaders from other parties, to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the ruling party at the Centre. A conspicuous example of this kind has been inveigling the Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, to change sides with the implicit promise that he could continue as Chief Minister under a new dispensation (headed by the BJP). Many other instances of engineered high-level defections to the ruling party at the Centre are again taking place across the country, undermining democratic principles and practices. This conveys an impression that electoral democracy stands today at the crossroads; and that constitutionally mandated rules and practices are being trampled upon with impunity. While no one party may be responsible for this situation, given that the majority of engineered high-level defections have been to the ruling BJP in this election year, the import is loud and clear, *viz.*, that those holding the reins of power are better positioned to alter electoral verdicts by other means.

No rules-based order

Distinct from this, but intrinsically linked to it, are perceived violations of constitutionally mandated conduct by centrally-appointed Governors in certain States. The role of Governors in Opposition-ruled States has become a major issue between the Centre and the Opposition-ruled States of late, with these States alleging – and not without reason – that the Centre was using Governors to checkmate the policies and programmes drawn up by Opposition-ruled States. In some instances, and in certain situations, it is leading to a virtual breakdown of relations between the Centre and the States.

The situation clearly calls for dispassionate analysis. It may be that the ruling dispensation at the Centre is not alone to blame and that the Opposition also demonstrates a disregard for constitutional niceties and the principles of federalism. The onus, however, lies mainly on the Centre. What is apparent, and most lacking today, is the absence of a rules-based order in regard to Centre-State relations, and with regard to party-to-party relationships. In the absence of this, there is every danger that the system could overturn altogether.

All this is tantamount to a virtual collapse of Constitution-mandated rules of business. There is again every danger that if these were to continue, what we understand by democracy under a constitutional mandate would cease to exist. Tolerating differences is, hence, the first order of priority. Next, everything has to be subordinated to the requirements of the Constitution. Third, managing the subtle interplay between interests and values and reaffirming a firm belief in the Constitution is a basic necessity. There are no rivalries that cannot be managed within a constitutionally-mandated system, and this is essential if India, as we know it, is to survive.

Having panchayats as self-governing institutions

P.P. Balan

is Senior Consultant, Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Three decades have passed since the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments Acts came into effect, which envisaged that local bodies in India would function as institutions of local self government. As a follow up, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was constituted in 2004 to strengthen rural local governments.

When it comes to analysing the status of devolution, it is evident that some States have forged ahead while many lag behind. The commitment of State governments towards decentralisation has been vital in making panchayati raj institutions an effective local governance mechanism at the grass-roots level.

The constitutional amendment has set forth specific details on fiscal devolution which includes the generation of own revenues. Emanating from the Central Act, various States Panchayati Raj Acts have made provisions for taxation and collection. Based on the provisions of these Acts, panchayats have made efforts to generate their own resources to the maximum extent. Participatory planning and budgeting were the end result of such interventions by the Ministry.

That "Panchayats earn only 1% of the revenue through taxes", with the rest being raised as grants from the State and Centre was highlighted in a 'Datapoint' (Opinion page, *The Hindu*, February 5, 2024). It specifically points out that 80% of the revenue is from the Centre and 15 % from the States. This is an eye-opener for the proponents of decentralisation as the net result is that the revenue raised by panchayats is meagre even after 30 years of devolution initiatives.

Avenues for own source of revenue

The report of the expert committee constituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on own source of revenue (OSR) of rural local bodies elaborates on the details of State Acts that have incorporated tax and non-tax revenue that can be collected and utilised by panchayats. Property tax, cess on land revenue, surcharge on additional stamp duty, tolls, tax on profession, advertisement, user charges for water and sanitation and lighting are the major OSRs where panchayats can earn maximum income. Panchayats are expected to establish a conducive environment for taxation by implementing appropriate financial regulations. This includes making decisions regarding the tax and non-tax bases, determining their rates, establishing provisions for periodic revisions, defining exemption areas, and enacting effective tax management and enforcement laws for collection

> There is a need to educate elected representatives and the public on the significance and the need for panchayats to be able to survive on their own resources

The huge potential for non-tax revenue includes fees, rent, and income from investment sales and hires charges and receipts. There are also innovative projects that can generate OSR. This covers income from rural business hubs, innovative commercial ventures, renewable energy projects, carbon credits. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds and donations.

The role of gram sabhas

Gram sabhas have a significant role in fostering self-sufficiency and sustainable development at the grass-roots level by leveraging local resources for revenue generation. They can be engaged in planning, decision-making, and implementation of revenue-generating initiatives that range from agriculture and tourism to small-scale industries. They have the authority to impose taxes, fees, and levies, directing the funds towards local development projects, public services, and social welfare programmes. Through transparent financial management and inclusive participation, gram sabhas ensure accountability and foster community trust, ultimately empowering villages to become economically independent and resilient. Thus, gram sabhas need to promote entrepreneurship, and foster partnerships with external stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of revenue generation efforts

In several States, gram panchayats lack the authority to collect taxes, while in numerous others, intermediate and district panchayats are not delegated the responsibility of tax collection. When gram panchayats collect 89% of own taxes, the intermediate panchayats collect 7% and the district panchayats a nominal amount of 5%. There is a need to demarcate OSR for the entire three-tier panchayats to ensure equitable sharing.

There are several factors behind the general aversion towards generating own income. With the increase in the allocation of Central Finance Commission (CFC) grants, panchayats are evincing less interest in the collection of OSR. The allocation for rural local bodies from the 10th and 11th CFC was ₹4,380 crore and ₹8,000 crore, respectively. But in the 14th and 15th CFCs there was a huge increase by way of allocating ₹2,00,202 and ₹2,80,733 crore, respectively. The tax collected in 2018-19 was ₹3,12,075 lakh which diminished in 2021-2022 to ₹2,71,386 lakh. The non-tax collected for the same period was ₹2,33,863 lakh and ₹2,09,864 lakh. At one time, panchayats were in competition to raise OSR for their commitment to fulfil basic needs. This has now given place to dependency on grants allocated through central and State finance commissions. Some States have the policy of incentivisation by providing matching grants but which were sparingly implemented. Panchayats also have no need of penalising defaulters as they believe that OSR has not been regarded as an income that is linked with panchayat finance.

Overcoming the dependency syndrome

Despite every enabling factor to raise revenue, panchayats confront several impediments in resource mobilisation: the 'freebie culture' rampant in society is the cause for the antipathy in paying taxes. Elected representatives feel that imposing taxes would alter their popularity adversely. Here, the answer is clear. There is a need to educate elected representatives and the public on the significance of raising revenue to develop panchayats as self-governing institutions. Ultimately, the dependency syndrome for grants has to be minimised and in due course, panchayats will be able to survive on their own resources. Panchayats can only achieve such a state of affairs when there are dedicated efforts in all tiers of governance, which includes even the State and central level.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Court on poll, impact

It is a matter of shame that the act of an election officer in the Chandigarh mayoral polls, defacing some of the ballot papers, was there for all to see. The Supreme Court's issuance of notice as to why he should not be criminally hauled up could snowball into a crisis for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). When the BJP is a political force to reckon with, a mayoral election is insignificant since its result will have a 'nil effect' in the overall scenario. But, in the same breath, any political misdemeanour has the potential to damage the BJP's image as the perception that the BJP is a party that will stoop to any level to win an or any election, could gain ground.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu Budget

The Tamil Nadu Budget may be making 'the right noises' in an election year, but for money to be poured over and over again into 'river rejuvenation' when it comes to the vision of 'Singara Chennai' and the Cooum and the Adyar, and without any appreciable improvement at all, is painful. Likewise, when it comes to the issue of roads, they should stand for at least five years once they are repaired/relaid.

R. Ganesan,
Chennai

Judicial clarity on free speech

Ashwani Kumar

Senior Advocate, Supreme Court
Former Union Minister of Law & Justice

The 31st January decision of Justice Gautam Patel of the Bombay High Court in a bunch of petitions, popularly known as the Kunal Kamra's case, stands out for its compelling articulation of the constitutional fundamentals in relation to the right of free speech on "social media." The learned Judge has reiterated the sacrosanctity of the inviolate constitutional guarantee of free speech, not to be tinkered with or read down, except for the reasonable restrictions thereon as envisaged in Article 19(2), (6) of the Constitution. The affirmation of this constitutional right and its eloquent defence against State encroachment by the Judge is reassuring, even though his decision on the subject is not yet binding, because of a split verdict by the Division Bench.

The context of the decision is the amended Rule 3(1)(b)(v) of the IT Rules 2021, widely perceived as arbitrary and unjust. Relevant extracts of the Rule are reproduced below:

"3(1)...(b) the intermediary...shall make reasonable efforts by itself, and to cause the users of its computer resource to not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any information that, – (v) ...in respect of any business of the Central Government, is identified as fake or false or misleading by such fact check unit of the Central Government as the Ministry may, by notification published in the Official Gazette, specify."

Failure to comply with the due diligence obligation would invite penal consequences for the errant intermediary under Rule 7, reproduced below:

"The intermediary shall be liable for punishment under any law for the time being in force including the provisions of the Act and the Indian Penal Code."

The effect of these provisions is to confer unfettered powers on the Fact Check Unit (FCU) to control the digital content in matters connected with the business of the Central government without specifying the contours of the government's business.

Declaring the amended Rule unconstitutional, Justice Patel held that the amendment results in a form of censorship of user content that is vague and overbroad, destructive of the right to criticise and debate, does not disclose reasonable standards and objective criteria to determine the validity of the decisions of the FCU as the sole decision maker, that the amendment is not within the boundaries of reasonable restrictions envisaged in Article 19 (2), (6) and that the impugned amendment was unconstitutional for infracting the rule of non-arbitrariness and non-discrimination in Article 14 absent, "clear guidance" and non-application of the Rule to the print media. Invoking, amongst other principles, the doctrine of proportionality and the absolute necessity of the measure to achieve the State's goal, the Judge held the amended Rule as ultra vires Article 19(1)(a), 19(2), 19 (1)(g), 19 (6), Article 14 and Section 79 of the IT Act.

The decision of the learned Judge vindicates the constitutional conscience in as much as it scoffs at "the potential for wanton abuse" of untrammelled power, a view wholly consistent with the first principles of Constitutional governance. The capping glory of the decision rests on the Judge's elevating enunciation of the democratic principle that "the cacophony of dissent and disagreement is the symphony of a democracy at work...". The resounding rejection of the impugned amendment for its "chilling effect" (*Shreya Singhal*, 2015; *Zeran*, 1997) and "a frontal assault on the marketplace of ideas" is the Judge's welcome message that fear instilled stillness ill serves the case of a vibrant democracy.

Importantly, the decision does not discount the need for regulation of digital platforms. Indeed, there can be no doubt about the imperative of combatting fakery and misinformation, which are a threat to the indefeasible right to the reputation and dignity of individuals. The truth of Jonathan Swift's statement in 1710 that "Falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it," was never more pronounced as now.

This decision a repudiation of the wide ambit and discriminatory nature of the regulatory power under the amended Rule and protection against the potential of its abuse. It validates the logic of judicial review as a bulwark against the excesses of majoritarian assemblies and untamed power. It reaffirms the premise of a democratic State that "the will of the State is subject to scrutiny by those who are affected by the exercise of State power and that democratic power" is "a trust held upon conditions," to secure the inherent rights of the people (Harold Laski, *A Grammar of Politics*, 1937). The judgment tells us that a law that permits its enforcers to become agents of injustice cannot be countenanced in a constitutional democracy.

The clarity of thought, the power of a clear statement and its unexceptionable constitutional premise lend a unique quality to a defining judicial decision, which represents a convergence of constitutional principles and the nation's felt sensitivities about the right of free speech as a necessary condition of freedom. Hopefully, its irrefutable rationale will attain judicial finality before long. In the interregnum, it is hoped that the Centre will heed the reported suggestion of the Judge (7th Feb) to the Centre, not to notify and operationalise the amended/impugned Rule. The tradition of deference to judicial decisions in matters of import and expectation of self-restraint on the part of the government to foster inter-institutional comity demands that the impugned amendment to Rule 3(1)(b)(v) of the IT Rules 2021 be kept in abeyance.

Views expressed are personal

The decision validates the logic of judicial review as a bulwark against the excesses of majoritarian assemblies and untamed power

Will the TDP-JSP alliance work out?

The alliance in A.P. faces challenges, including disagreements on seat-sharing

STATE OF PLAY

Sumit Bhattacharjee
sumit.b@thehindu.co.in

In September last year, Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief Pawan Kalyan announced that his party would tie-up with N. Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP), to oust Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy from the seat of power in the State.

The announcement came after the actor-turned-politician Mr. Pawan had met the TDP chief who was then under judicial remand for his alleged involvement in the Andhra Pradesh skill development scam.

Mr. Pawan also stated that the alliance was important not only to defeat the YSR Congress party (YSRCP) but also to see that the anti-YSRCP votes do not get split.

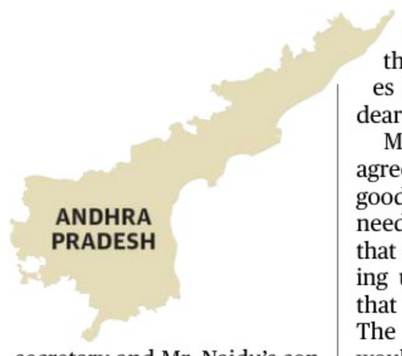
But ever since the announcement, there has been an element of doubt if the tie-up would hold till the last minute. And if it holds, will it be able to stop the YSRCP juggernaut.

Though there are sufficient indications of anti-incumbency against the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSR Congress government, he is entrenched in the rural parts with the welfare schemes.

He is confident that these initiatives will help him secure success in the upcoming 2024 General and Assembly elections.

While the TDP-JSP alliance has been organising joint meetings and grassroots gatherings involving leaders and members, a concern for both leaders and members revolves around the issue of 'seat-sharing' in the upcoming elections.

Already, a few chinks in the alliance had come to the fore when TDP's national general



secretary and Mr. Naidu's son Nara Lokesh publicly announced that Mr. Naidu will be the Chief Minister, once the alliance comes to power.

This did not go well with Mr. Pawan and his party men, as the JSP chief in all his meetings had said that the Chief Minister candidate would be decided after the combination wins the election and throws YSRCP out of power.

Mr. Pawan also found fault when TDP had unilaterally declared the MLA candidate for the Mandapeta constituency even before a seat-sharing agreement was arrived at and remarked that the TDP had violated their alliance. He (Pawan) himself then had gone ahead to say that JSP would field its candidate from Razole and Rajanagaram.

But Mr. Naidu was quick enough to douse the fire and from then on, he stuck to his statement that the candidates would be finalised only after the leaders come to a common consensus.

But seat-sharing will be a herculean task, as both parties are divided on caste lines.

TDP is primarily a Kamma-based party and Mr. Pawan is looked up as a champion for the Kapu community, which has the largest vote share in the State with over about 25 per cent. The Kammas and the Kapus are known not to see 'eye to eye'.

JSP is relatively a new party and lacks good MLA faces. While on the other hand TDP, which has been one of the strongest regional forces in the country, has no dearth of leaders.

Mr. Pawan himself had agreed that his party lacks good MLA candidates and he needs to build that base and that is why he was keen on tying up with the TDP, to see that the votes are not split. The question would be – would Mr. Naidu sacrifice one of his strong candidates to accommodate someone from the JSP and if so, how many seats can he give away.

The equation of vote sharing would be a crucial factor, which is why both parties have so far not been able to announce anything concrete on this factor.

BJP factor

Another development that can either upset or get the cart rolling, is BJP joining the alliance.

Both Mr. Naidu and Mr. Pawan were summoned to New Delhi by Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah, about a week ago, to discuss the modalities of the alliance and so far nothing has been declared openly.

BJP-TDP-JSP was a winning combination in 2014 when Mr. Naidu became the Chief Minister, but will it work this time is the question as BJP is facing resentment from the State for a number of reasons such as not agreeing to the Special Category Status.

A few senior political analysts say the BJP joining the alliance may also upset the minority voters in the TDP-JSP combination. Moreover, the BJP will also demand some share of the seats, which leaves a lesser number of seats for the TDP.

With all these, the election in Andhra Pradesh looks to be heading toward a high-octane show.

Making sense of electoral bond judgment through data

Data published by the Association for Democratic Reforms played a vital role in assessing electoral bonds' impact

DATA POINT

Sonikka Loganathan
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Last week, the Supreme Court ruled the electoral bonds Scheme unconstitutional, saying that the anonymous influx of funding to political parties, especially from corporations, hinders democratic legitimacy. The unanimous judgment squashed the government's argument that the scheme is transparent because donors have to go through official banking channels to purchase these bonds, despite their identity being hidden.

The Bench agreed that the voters' right to know was violated, by the anonymity electoral bonds provide. In Justice Sanjiv Khanna's opinion, "access to information which can materially shape the citizens' choice is necessary for them to have a say in how their lives are affected." This meant Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's argument that no black or unaccounted money can be used for bonds was not strong enough as, "denying voters the right to know the details of funding of political parties would lead to a dichotomous situation."

Data from the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), one of the petitioners in the case, shows that the share of unknown sources of income has only increased after the introduction of the electoral bond scheme, in direct contradiction to the government's claim. The ADR categorises the income of political parties into two primary categories: known and unknown. Known income is further divided into two subtypes – voluntary contributions over ₹20,000 with donor details provided to the Election Commission of India, and other known sources of income such as the sale of movable and immovable assets. The unknown income encompasses voluntary donations under ₹20,000 where donor details remain undisclosed.

Table 1 shows that the share of unknown sources of income for national parties increased from 66% between FY15 and FY17 to 72% between FY19 and FY22. The transition year FY18, the year in which the scheme was introduced, was not considered for analysis. The BJP's share of unknown income increased from 58% to 68% in the period, while the Congress' remained at around 80%.

A reason behind the call for transparency is that a bulk of these donations were made by corporations. This, gives unfair power to a certain section. "... [The] amendment to Section 182 by permitting unlimited corporate contributions (including by shell companies) authorises unrestrained influence of companies on the electoral process. This is violative of the principle of free and fair elections...", the court observed. Justice Khanna noted that the 255th report by the Law Commission of India states that when importance is given to certain groups, it violates, "the right of equal participation of each citizen in the polity." ADR data shows that the BJP received a lion's share of corporate donations in the FY17 to FY22 period – ₹3,300 crores or 84% of them **(Chart 2)**.

Over 90% of the electoral bonds sold in terms of value and over 50% sold in terms of numbers belonged to the ₹1 crore denomination. The share of other denominations – ₹10 lakhs, ₹1 lakh, ₹10,000 and ₹1,000 – in electoral bond sales, paled in comparison as shown in **Chart 3**. The court observed that this data pointed to the influence of corporates in the scheme, as not many individuals can afford to donate in crores. Finally, the court also observed that a bulk of the donations from electoral bonds were done in favour of the BJP. ADR data shows that in the FY18-FY22 period, the BJP earned ₹5,272 crore through electoral bonds – 57% of the money donated to all parties in this route **(Chart 4)**.

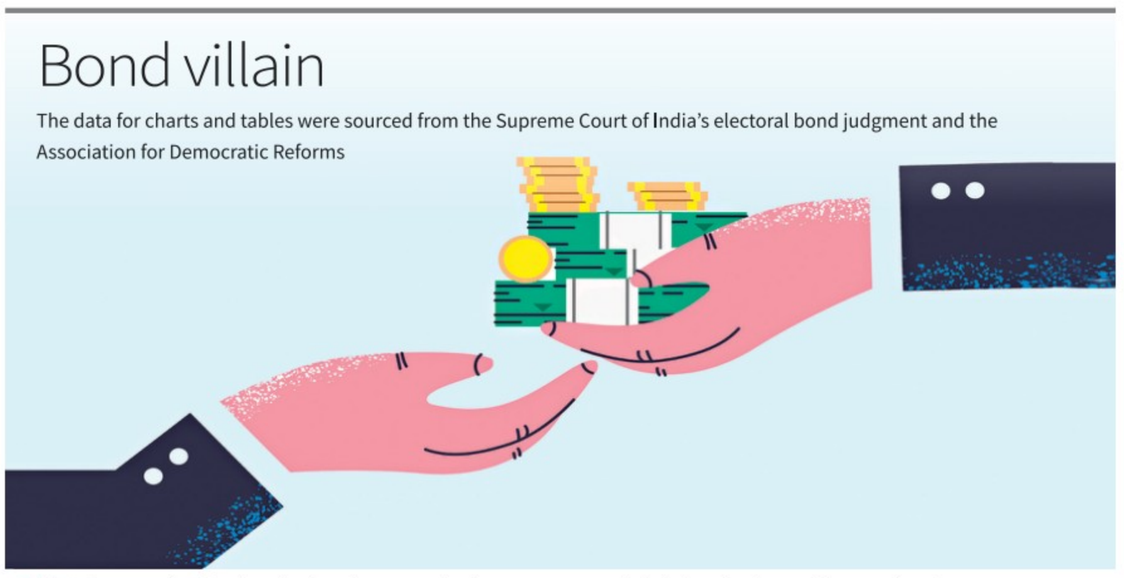


Table 1: Income of national parties from known and unknown sources and their share in the total income of parties

Figures in ₹ crore, unless otherwise mentioned	National parties		BJP		Congress	
Parameter	FY15-17	FY19-22	FY15-17	FY19-22	FY15-17	FY19-22
Known income from donations > ₹20,000 (A)	1,314	3,340	1,046	2,620	204	458
Total unknown income (B)	2,550	8,489	1,431	5,516	757	1,823
Total income without other known sources (C = A+B)	3,864	11,829	2,477	8,136	961	2,280
Total income from electoral bonds (D)	0	6,841	0	5,062	0	947
% of known income from donations > ₹20,000 (A/C)	34%	28%	42%	32%	21%	20%
% of unknown income (B/C)	66%	72%	58%	68%	79%	80%
Electoral bonds income as a % of total income (D/C)	0%	58%	0%	62%	0%	42%
Electoral bonds income as a % of unknown income (D/B)	0%	81%	0%	92%	0%	52%

Chart 2: Corporate donation received by national parties (in ₹ crore) between FY17 and FY22

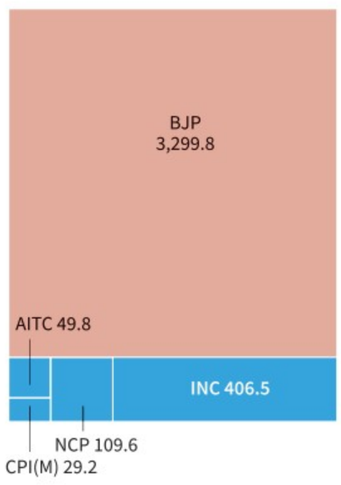


Chart 3: Denomination-wise sale of electoral bond between March 2018 and July 2023. Figures in %

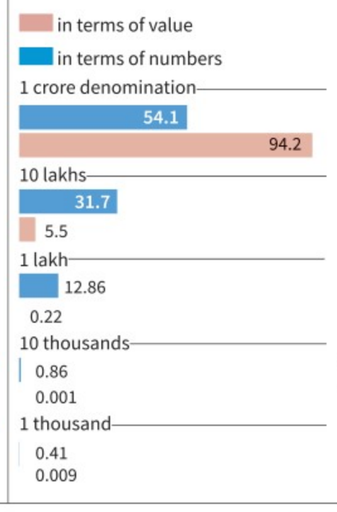
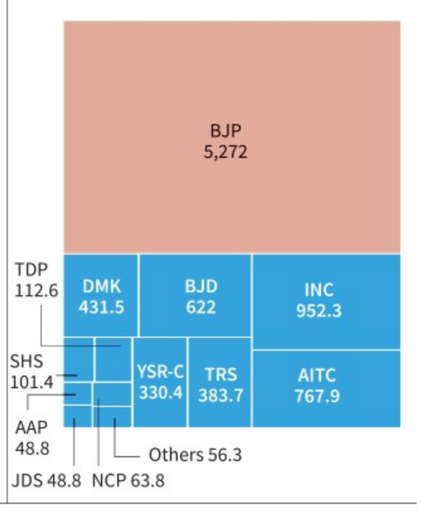


Chart 4: Party-wise donation received through electoral bonds (in ₹ crore) between FY17 and FY22



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 21, 1974

ONGC to drill more wells in Bombay High Region

New Delhi, Feb. 20: With the encouraging strike for oil in the first well on Bombay High, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) is expected to go ahead drilling more wells in this promising structure, 160 km off Bombay.

Though oil was flowing out from a depth of 962 metres the drill ship "Sagar Samrat" will continue to drill the well to its projected depth of 2,000 metres before moving on to another drilling point, 40 km away from this site.

The news of the oil strike was received here with jubilation and the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals, Mr. D. K. Barooah, is likely to go to the "Sagar Samrat" to congratulate personally the workers "who have done a good job."

Experts point out that the oil found in the well is of high quality with API gravity of 43.6 which indicates an oil lighter than the light Arabian crude.

The lightness implies that oil from Bombay High, if commercially exploitable, will have very small sulphur content. According to petroleum geologists, this will make extraction of oil considerably easy.

Interpreting the pressure encountered experts say that reservoir pressures varying from 15 pounds to 12,635 pounds per square inch have been recorded in the world and Bombay High's 500 pounds is on the low side.

Since the highest pressure is usually recorded in the first drilling, experts say that increased pressures are unlikely with further penetration.

Geologists, however, feel that reservoirs with pressures greater than 500 pounds per square inch could exist in other zones in the Bombay High region.

As the location is more than 160 km away from the nearest Bombay coast, steel pipelines will have to be laid under the sea bed connecting the oil wells.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 21, 1924

Lady J. P. 'S in Bombay.

Bombay, Feb. 20: Four ladies have been appointed this year for the first time as justices of peace for Bombay. These are Lady Jagmohandas Varjivandas, Dilshad Begum, Mrs. Harry Hodgkinson and Lady Cowasji Jehangir.

From Page One

SC declares AAP leader as Mayor of Chandigarh

The decision to declare Mr. Kumar as the winner was taken immediately after perusing the eight ballot papers specially brought to the court. The Bench said that the eight votes were clearly cast for Mr. Kumar, taking his tally to a majority 20 votes out of a total 36 polled. Mr. Masih's declaration of Mr. Sonkar as winner was quashed and set aside.

The court agreed with Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and advocate Shadan Farasat that there was no need to call for fresh polls as that would only work to compound the "serious misdemeanour" of Mr. Masih. It said the aberration was only in the counting of votes by the Returning Officer.

The Bench concluded that Mr. Masih misused his capacity as a Returning Officer to unlawfully alter the course of the mayoral elections. He further made a "patently false statement" in the Supreme Court on Monday that the eight ballot papers were already defaced by the time they had reached him.

The Bench ordered the Supreme Court Registrar (Judicial) to issue a show cause notice to Mr. Masih under Section 340 (conduct affecting the administration of justice) of the CrPC.

Maharashtra makes way for 10% Maratha quota

In fact, this is the third time in the last decade that the State has introduced legislation for a Maratha quota.

While seeking to fulfil long-pending demands and aspirations of poorer sections of the Maratha community, this Bill does not disturb the existing OBC quota. It will push total reservations in Maharashtra to 62%, above the Supreme Court-mandated limit of 50%. This Bill is distinct from the State government's earlier notification on issuing Kunbi OBC certificates to eligible Marathas who had records showing them as Kunbis.

Thus, non-Kunbi Marathas will be covered under the legislation passed on Tuesday.

While the Opposition parties passed the Bill unanimously, the Congress later denounced it as a "pre-election eyewash", accusing the government of hoodwinking the Maratha community.

Maharashtra Leader of Opposition and senior Congressman Vijay Wadettiwar alleged that the Eknath Shinde regime had "fooled the Marathas."

He added that the Opposition had been compelled to support the Bill on Tuesday for fear of accusations of voting against it merely for the sake of Opposition. "We were not allowed to speak in the Assembly. This Bill was brought with the sole aim of winning the Lok Sabha election," the Congressman said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, though a Congress ally, expressed his thanks to Mr. Shinde, noting that the OBC community's reservation had not been affected while granting the quota for the Marathas.

Indians forced to fight along Ukraine border

Indian nationals fighting along the Russian border in its conflict with Ukraine. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The family of one of the victims, who is from Hyderabad, has approached AIMIM Member of Parliament Asaduddin Owaisi. On January 25, Mr. Owaisi wrote to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and the Indian Embassy in Moscow, seeking the government's intervention for their return.

The other victims belong to Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. *The Hindu* has withheld their names.

One of the victims from Uttar Pradesh, who is in his early 20s and who wished to remain anonymous, said three of them were given basic training in handling arms and ammunition by the "Russian Army" and were packed off to Rostov-on-Don along the Russia-Ukraine border in January where they faced bullets and were forced to fight at gunpoint.

He said he came to Russia with the help of an agent - Faisal Khan - who runs a YouTube channel titled "Baba Vlogs".

One of the agents who received the victims in Russia told *The Hindu* that the men hail from different parts of India and face grave danger to life if the government does not act.

The MEA declined to comment on the specific case of Indian workers in Russia. According to sources, the Indian Embassy has been following up on all such complaints they have received but pointed out that many of those who claim being forced into labour at the border don't want to leave the country.

As a result, officials say their hands are tied, although they are willing to help in any case involving Indian citizens in distress.

BJP pushes for simultaneous polls, with common voter list

In letter to Kovind-led panel, BJP says elections for Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and local bodies must be held together; it says that frequent polls cause stagnation of economic activities and add financial burden on parties and governments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday pitched for simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, the State Assemblies, and the local bodies, with the same voter list for all three.

A presentation was made before a high-level committee formed to look into the feasibility of the "one nation, one election" idea. The panel is headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

In both the BJP's eight-page letter to the panel and party president J.P. Nadda's briefing to the media, it was suggested that simultaneous elections, with a common voter list, were desirable and a law based on consensus should be the goal. The BJP wants that the law should be amended to hold simultaneous elections, Mr. Nadda said.

Bigger goals: BJP chief J.P. Nadda with Home Minister Amit Shah during the party's recent National Council meet in New Delhi. ANI

He also said that the BJP had proposed that if conducting all the three polls together was not possible immediately, then the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections could be held together first.

"But in the long run, local body polls should also be held alongside Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, or it will defeat the purpose due to the frequent imposition of the Model Code of Conduct," Mr. Nadda said.

In the letter submitted to the panel, the BJP stated that when elections are imminent, State governments tend to make populist, short-term decisions rather than more policy-based, long-term ones.

'Govt. paralysed'

It was also suggested that the frequent imposition of the model code paralysed government in policy terms. In Maharashtra, of the 365 days in 2016-17, some parts of the State or the other were under the code for 301 days. "It would be difficult under these circumstances to have effective governance," the BJP said.

"The committee should evolve a consensus on holding simultaneous elections," Mr. Nadda said, expressing confidence that everyone would move together on this.

"Ongoing development work is stopped during the period of an election, often three times in a State, causing stagnation of economic activities and adding to financial burdens on political parties and governments," he said, adding that it also gave rise to corruption.

Security forces deployed for internal and external security are also used for election duties, Mr. Nadda said, noting that civil staff like teachers and health sector workers are also part of election work. This adversely affects administration and pro-people work, he said.

Major Opposition parties, including the Congress, the Trinamool Congress, and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, have strongly opposed the idea, first mooted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, dubbing it as an assault on the federal structure.

Bring back ballot papers, RJD appeals to poll panel

Press Trust of India
PATNA

The Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in Bihar urged the Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday to consider reverting to the old practice of ballot papers, in place of electronic voting machines (EVMs), "to ensure free and fair polls". According to the party's representation, elections ought to be conducted through ballot papers to ensure transparency.

However, the party also said that as long as EVMs remained in use, it must be ensured that VVPAT (voter verifiable paper audit trail) slips were shown to the respective voters after voting and these were kept in a sealed box until counting. The RJD also demanded that postal ballots be counted before EVMs.

Concerns on EVMs were also raised by the CPI(ML) Liberation and the CPI(M), both alliance partners of the RJD.

CBI searches premises of ex-officer in assets case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday searched the premises of Ramesh Abhishek, the then secretary of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and then chairman of the Forward Markets Commission (FMC), in an alleged disproportionate assets case against him and his daughter.

The Lokpal had directed the CBI to probe the doubtful transactions entered into by Mr. Abhishek and his daughter by way of receiving huge amounts as professional/consulting fee from various entities with whom he had official dealings while he was Secretary DPIIT or headed FMC.

Sonia, 2 BJP leaders elected unopposed to RS from Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Sonia Gandhi

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders Madan Rathore and Chunnilal Garasiya were elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan on Tuesday, which was the last day for withdrawal of nominations for biennial elections to the Upper House. No other candidates were contesting for the three seats.

The ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress were comfortably placed to win two and one seats, respectively, based on their strength in the State Assembly.

Election Officer and Assembly Secretary Maheveer Prasad Sharma declared the three leaders elected at the end of the scheduled day for withdrawing the papers.

Veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot congratulated Ms. Gandhi on her election and said her entry into the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan would give "new energy" to the Opposition.

Nadda, three others elected unopposed from Gujarat

Press Trust of India
GANDHINAGAR

BJP president J.P. Nadda and three other candidates of the party, including an OBC leader and a prominent diamond merchant, were declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat on Tuesday.

There were four vacant Rajya Sabha seats in the State.

As there were no other candidates in the fray for the Rajya Sabha elections from Gujarat on the vacant seats besides them, Returning Officer Reeta Mehta declared all the four BJP nominees, including Mr. Nadda, elected unopposed to the Upper House of Parliament, an official said.

J&K on development path, Gulf countries keen to invest: Modi

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who dedicated ₹32,000-crore projects to Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, expressed satisfaction over the positive outcome of the revocation of the special status under Article 370, "with the Gulf countries showing keen interest in investment".

He also congratulated the local youth for liberating themselves from dynastic politics.

"There is a positivity about investing in Kashmir. The successful G-20 meeting in the country and Srinagar have echoed in the globe. A record two crore tourists have visited J&K in the past one year. More visitors will come with the train network expansions from Srinagar to Jammu and the new express highway from Jammu to Delhi," Mr. Modi said.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party is fulfilling dreams of people, unfulfilled for the past 70 years, in J&K. Modi's guarantee is final and is the guarantee that everyone's dreams will be fulfilled. In the past, only sad news, like bomb blasts, kidnappings and separatism, would emerge from Kashmir. Education, connectivity and development has replaced it. Now, J&K is on the path of progress and development," Mr. Modi, who addressed a well-attended public rally at Jammu's Maulana Azad Stadium, said.

'New shape'

Mr. Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation of projects worth ₹32,000 crore in several sectors, including education, health, aviation, roadways and railways. "Kashmir is taking a new shape now. The biggest wall between J&K and the country was Article 370. The BJP removed that wall. All development initiatives get implemented simultaneously now," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi inaugurated two key railways projects on the occasion, including the 48-km Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan and electrified train on the Sangaldan-Baramulla section.

Dynastic politics

Without naming the Congress, the National Conference, or the Peoples Democratic Party, Mr. Modi said J&K suffered due to dynastic politics.

"These dynasties only see their own interest and not that of people. It's the youth that bears the brunt of this dynastic politics because it does not prioritise welfare schemes for them or the downtrodden," he said.

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said, "The incidents of terrorism have been reduced by 75%. *Jo bhi tanzeeme thi unke* top commanders ko *uchit jagah pahucha diye gaye hai* [all of those top organisational commanders have been sent to the appropriate spot]. Protest calendar is no longer issued, and stone throwing is now history. Markets, schools, and universities now remain open throughout the year."

U.S. awaits India's findings in Pannun case, says U.S. official Richard Verma

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The U.S. has raised "concerns" and is still waiting for the outcome of India's investigation into the alleged assassination plot against American national and Khalistani separatist leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a senior U.S. official said on Tuesday.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal and U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti with Richard R. Verma, right, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Speaking at a think tank event in Delhi, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Verma, who was U.S. Ambassador to India between 2014 and 2016, said that U.S.-India relations are built on "shared values" that are the "glue" in the partnership, which he said has made major strides in the past decade. Mr. Verma spoke about the need for India and the U.S. to cooperate on global challenges like the Russian war in Ukraine, a day after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar pointed out that Russia has never harmed India's interests.

"We can't stray too far from the shared values that hold us together. We are both post-colonial democratic powers governed by a constitutional framework with checks and balances. We aspire for equality, social inclusion, and racial and minority rights and so much more," Mr. Verma said, speaking at the Observer Research Foundation on the "The Long View" on bilateral ties. If India and the U.S. share only "transactional" interests, they could return to the 1960 to 1980 era, when ties between the two countries were not close, he added.

When asked whether the shared values had been affected by the "assassin for hire" case – where U.S. agencies have filed an indictment against an Indian national allegedly working for a senior Indian intelligence official to plot Mr. Pannun's assassination – Mr. Verma said the two sides remain "engaged".

"We raised our concerns with the Government of India; there is a Committee of Inquiry looking into the matter. We will stay engaged with the [Indian] government and look forward to their findings... They've taken it very seriously. And we're grateful for that," he said.

The Ministry of External Affairs has denied any wrongdoing in the case, but set up a "high-level" panel to investigate the allegations in November.

U.S. Senate criticism

While the U.S. government has been dealing with the Pannun case diplomatically, behind closed doors thus far, the U.S. Congress has been more vocal about its concerns in the case. At a U.S. Senate committee hearing on "transnational repression" in December, several senior lawmakers had sharply criticised the Modi government over this case, as well as similar allegations by Canada, and some lawmakers threatened to "activate" U.S. laws against cooperation with India.

In January, Senate Foreign Relations chair Ben Cardin said that he had held up the sale of MQ-9 drones to India, only clearing the deal after receiving assurances that New Delhi was "fully cooperating" and would ensure "credible accountability" for those found responsible.

When asked how differences with India's position on the Ukraine war were viewed in Washington, Mr. Verma said that India's "complicated history" with Russia is understood, although the U.S. as a NATO member has "different responsibilities" from those of India. He said that statements that India and the U.S. had jointly issued, bilaterally and during the G-20 summit, clearly called for "territorial integrity, standing up for the rule of law, and to minimise the humanitarian impact".

APPEAL

I am **Parvathy** aged 39 years suffering from Heart ailment and advised to undergo Open Heart Surgery and Valve Replacement at The Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 8,00,000/-**. I have three children and my husband is a daily wage earner. We cannot afford this high cost of the surgery. Please help me to have a bright future. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Parvathy

Police gear up for farmers' march

Punjab DGP says that no earthmoving equipment should be allowed to reach the inter-State boundary with Haryana; police allege that protesters were planning to damage the barricades, which they say will compromise law and order situation

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

A day ahead of their 'Delhi Chalo' march, protesting farmers in Punjab on Tuesday made efforts to mobilise supporters to swell their ranks.

The Punjab Police are leaving nothing to chance, alleging that inputs indicated plans of the protesters to storm the barricades erected by the Haryana Police and enter Haryana, a move which would disturb the law and order situation in both States.

On Tuesday, Punjab's Director-General of Police issued instructions to all Senior Superintendents of Police and Commissioners of Police that "no JCBs, poclaines, tippers, hydras, and other heavy earthmoving equipment should be allowed to reach the Punjab-Haryana boundary at Khanauri and the Shambu barrier where the farmer agitation is under way".

Destination Delhi: The protesting farmers are set to resume the Delhi Chalo march on Wednesday. REUTERS

Earlier, Haryana's Director-General of Police wrote to his Punjab counterpart saying, "It is reliably learnt that heavy earthmoving equipment, which are further modified/armourplated, have been acquired by protesting farmers and have been deployed at the locations where the protesters are camping right now. These machines are meant to be used by the protesters to damage the barricades thereby posing a serious danger to the police and paramilitary forces deployed on duty and is likely to compromise the security scenario in Haryana."

'Not a difficult task'

The Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non Political) – the two umbrella bodies of around 200 farmers and farm labourer unions – had given the call for the march to the national capital to press for the fulfilment of demands such as a legal guarantee for purchasing crops at minimum support price (MSP) and loan waiver.

KMM, coordinator Sarwan Singh Pandher told *The Hindu* that on Wednesday farmers would peacefully start their march towards Delhi. He said if the Centre had an intent to resolve the issue, it was not a difficult task.

Meanwhile, while hearing two petitions surrounding the march, the Punjab and Haryana High Court observed that tractor-trolleys cannot be plied on highways as per the Motor Vehicle Act.

Modi govt. spreading a barrage of lies on MSP: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress claimed on Tuesday that farmers were wise to the Centre's mischief, which is why they rejected the Modi government's offer to buy pulses, maize, and cotton at minimum support price for five years based on contracts.

It said the Centre's proposal was a "false offer" and reiterated its commitment to provide statutory backing for MSP and take other steps to ensure justice for farmers.

In a post on X, party leader Rahul Gandhi said that ever since the Congress promised to make MSP a legal guarantee, "Modi's propaganda machinery and friendly media have been spreading a barrage of lies on MSP".

"Lie: It is not feasible to provide legal guarantee for MSP in the budget of the Government of India. Fact: According to CRISIL, giving MSP to farmers in 2022-23 would have resulted in an additional burden of ₹21,000 crore, which is only 0.4% of the total budget," he said.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh asked if a section of the media had been encouraged to describe the protesting farmers as "traitors, Naxalites and Khalistanis".

INBRIEF

U.P. court grants bail to Rahul in 2018 defamation case

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi appeared in a special court in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday in a defamation case filed by a BJP leader for his remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah in 2018, and was granted bail. The former Congress president entered the MP-MLA court at 11 a.m. amid tight security. BJP leader Vijay Mishra had filed the case on August 4, 2018 over Mr. Gandhi's alleged objectionable comments against Mr. Shah at a press conference in Bengaluru during the State Assembly elections. The next hearing will be held on March 2. PTI

Swami Prasad Maurya quits SP, to announce own party

A week after tendering his resignation from the post of Samajwadi Party national general secretary, Swami Prasad Maurya on Tuesday resigned from the party's primary membership and the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council and announced the formation of a new party. Mr. Maurya resigned as the party's national general secretary on February 13, accusing the leadership of discriminating against him and not defending him over his controversial statements on the Ramcharitmanas and the Ayodhya Temple consecration ceremony. Mr. Maurya said that he will form a new party and announce it on Thursday in New Delhi. Asked whether he would join the INDIA bloc or the NDA, he made no direct reply, but said the Opposition bloc is the need of the hour in the present scenario. PTI

Lift Internet ban, road blocks: *Khap* leaders

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Farmer unions and *Khap* leaders at a *mahapanchayat* in Haryana's Jind on Tuesday demanded that the ban on Internet services and the blockade put by the police on various roads should be lifted.

Samyukt Kisan Morcha leader Azad Palwa told *The Hindu* that the mahapanchayat decided to hold an indefinite sit-in on one of the carriageways of the Delhi-Patiala Highway in Uchana.

The *Khap* leaders also called for all farmer unions in Haryana to put up a united fight with the Punjab farmers.

SKM welcomes splinter group's decision to reject Centre's offer

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Tuesday welcomed the decision of its splinter group, the SKM (Non Political), to reject the Centre's proposal to procure five crops on minimum support price (MSP) for five years based on contracts and resume their 'Delhi Chalo' protest from Wednesday.

In a statement, the SKM welcomed the SKM-NP's announcement to continue their protest till all the common demands are achieved and said the decision was a step in the right direction of greater unity of all farmers across India.

SKM-NP's leader Shiv Kumar Kakka, however, said the SKM was not part of the protest and they had no right to comment on it. "Kisan movement has now split into two. But protests will continue seeking a solution for farmers issues. At a right time, based on these issues, we need to have united struggles."

Seat-sharing deal with SP will be finalised soon: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid reports that alliance talks between the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress for the Lok Sabha elections have hit a dead end, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal on Tuesday asserted that seat-sharing talks are on and a final deal could be announced soon.

"It [seat-sharing] is in final stage. Any time, it can be finalised," Mr. Venugopal told presspersons in response to a question on whether the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had derailed in Uttar Pradesh.

K. C. Venugopal

Asked if the Congress would accept the SP's offer of 17 seats, Mr. Venugopal said, "The discussion is going on. Wait for some time."

The last round of discussion between leaders of the Congress and the SP was held on February 19, sources added. On Monday, the SP declared 11 more candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha election. The first list with candidates for 16 seats was announced on January 30.

Other INDIA partners

Asked about other INDIA bloc partners talking about fighting the elections alone, he said, "We are in the process. Our alliance team is there and Congress president has appointed a team of leaders for alliance."

"They are discussing with everybody, day after day. We have great hope that a solution will come," he added.

AAP, Congress hail SC verdict in Chandigarh mayoral polls case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision on the Chandigarh mayoral elections, terming it a big victory for the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and that it would go a long way to save democracy.

Addressing a press conference after the SC overturned the result of the polls and declared the defeated AAP-Congress alliance candidate Kuldeep Kumar as the new Chandigarh Mayor, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "The results of this election is that the BJP is not invincible and it sends a message that if INDIA bloc parties remain united and work strategically, and put in the hard work, they can defeat the BJP."

He added that if the BJP can "steal" eight votes out of 36 in the Chandigarh mayoral polls, what will it do in the upcoming elections in which 90 crore votes will be polled.

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal said the entire election was a farce, which had been exposed by the historic verdict of the top court.

'Modi govt. tweaked definition of forest to help corporate friends'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday applauded the Supreme Court's interim order asking the States and the Union Territories to act as per the definition of a "forest" laid down by the court in a 1996 verdict. It also said that it was committed to protecting the environment when an INDIA bloc government is formed.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh accused the Modi-led government of tweaking the laws to make it easier to hand over forests and pollute the environment, to benefit Mr. Modi's "corporate crony friends."

"So first, he changed the rules in 2017 so that projects that had violated their forest clearance could be legalised. Over 100 projects of big corporates including coal mines, factories and cement plants were allowed to brazenly start work in violation of environmental clearances," he alleged.

The ruling stopped another set of "blatantly illegal and disastrous" Central schemes, he said.

ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management
TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR (a-IDEA) (ISO 9001:2015 Certified)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030, Telangana,India.
Phones:(040) 2458 1326, Fax:(040) 2401 5912, https://naarm.org.in

Walk-in Interview

a-IDEA, Technology Business Incubator of ICAR-NAARM Hyderabad, invites eligible candidates for **Walk in Interview, on 12th March 2024 at NAARM for Project Manager, Research Manager, Field Executive (1 post in each)** on contractual basis. Candidates may attend the interview with relevant documents. The details of Job description can be obtained from our website **https://aidea.naarm.org.in/careers.php or https://naarm.org.in/announcements/careers/**

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK — kerala IT EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

RFP No. 185/2024 **Dated 08.02.2024**

Proposals are invited for **"Selection of a Co-Developer to build and operate an IT building under QUAD Project in Technopark Phase IV (Technocity) Campus, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala"**.
The last date of submission of RFP is **12.03.2024**.
For further details, please visit **https://www.technopark.org/tenders**

Date: 16.02.2024 **Chief Executive Officer**
Trivandrum **Technopark**

D3/147/2024/I&PRD

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE

SE, South Circle, H. Dte., invites e-tender (online) for the work "SE, South Circle, H. Dte., invites e-tender (online) for the work *"Preparation of Architectural Design & Drawing along with Preparation of Details Cost Estimate including Supervision, Checking of As-Built Drawing for the Proposed* ***G+VI Storied BANGLA BHABAN Building at Pallikaranai, Chennai, Tamilnadu"*** **& e-NIRFP-01 (2nd Call)/2023-2024, Dt. 20.02.2024. TENDER ID :- 2024_HSD_670318_1, Date of submission start date (Online) is 21/02/2024 after 3.00 PM & Date of submission closing (online) is 06/03/2024 upto 3.00 pm.** Detail inf./download/upload will be available from the website http://www.wbtenders.gov.in.

ICA- T4462(4)/2024

Government of Odisha,
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle,Sambalpur.
E-mail Id: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

Bid Identification No. Road Tender Online RWCSBP-64/2023-24 No:694 Dated : 17.02.2024

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for **Transferred Road Improvement Programme (TRIP) & CMRL** for the year 2023-24.

1. Name of work	: Transferred Road Improvement Programme (TRIP) & CMRL for the year 2023-24.
2. No. of works	: 04 Nos details as per DTCN.
3. Estimated Cost	: Approximately varies from Rs.937.43 lakhs to Rs.1635.93 lakhs.
4. Class of Contractor	: "A" and "Special"
5. Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit	: Rs.10,000/- per set.(to be deposited On-line) in favour of concerned Executive Engineer
6. Mode of submission of tender	: Tender should be submitted only On line in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in . (https//tendersodisha.gov.in)
7. EMD and mode of deposit	: 1% of estimated cost of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCN

8. Summary of Key dates are provided below :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.	Road Tender Online - RWCSBP-64/ 2023-24	26.02.2024 From 11.00.A.M.	11.03.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.	07.03.2024 up to 5.00.P.M.	12.03.2024 at 11.00.A.M.	will be intimated later

*Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.(https//tendersodisha.gov.in)**
* Subsequent modification / corrigendum / Addendum if required shall appear in website only. * The amount put to bid is exclusive of GST. * Bidder should inspect the road before bidding and quote his rate accordingly.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.
O-: OIPR-25091/11/0096/2324

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, KERALA
Election Department, Kerala Legislative Complex, Vikas Bhavan P.O.
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 033, 0471 2300121, 0471 2307168

E - TENDER NOTICE

EL3/149/2023-ELEC **19.02.2024**

E-tenders are invited for selecting an vendor for installation and implementation of live web casting solution and CCTV monitoring services (audio & video recording, viewing, CCTV & Other services) during the Lok Sabha election, 2024 for the state of Kerala **(Tender ID: 2024_Elec_661613_1).** Details regarding tender cost, EMD, scheduled dates etc. are available on **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/**

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, KERALA

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U40010KA2002SGC030438)

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Through kppp Portal)

BESCOM invites tender against Enquiry No.: **BESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT137** for the work of **Left out works of Conversion of 11kV OH line into UG cable, Conversion of LT OH line into UG/AB cable and laying of Optic Fibre cable (OFC) along with 11kV/LT UG cable in E-1, E-2, & E-9 sub divisions of Shivajinagara Division, Bangalore North Circle, BMAZ (North), BESCOM under Total turnkey on percentage basis quoting.**
Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 62,41,54,372/-,** Availability of Bid documents: **26.02.2024 onwards.** Last date for bid submission: **27.03.2024 @ 15:00 Hrs.** Opening of Technical Bids: **28.03.2024 @ 15:30 Hrs.** Pre-Bid meeting: **06.03.2024 @ 11:00 Hrs.** Venue: **Conference Hall, 3rd Floor BELAKU BHAVANA, Block-II, Corporate Office, BESCOM, K. R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001.**
The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. KPP portal Help Desk:** Phone No: **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777,** E-mail: **support@eprochelpdesk.com.** Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during working hours.

Sd/- Chief General Manager, Elety., Projects, Corporate Office, BESCOM, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 560001,
E-mail: cgmproject.bescom@gmail.com

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur

RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/ EMD	Start of sale /Last date
7314/06.02.2024 RIS2324SLOB00089	RFP for Renewal of ATS of Oracle Products deployed under IFMS and Jan Aadhar Project for 3 Year.	Rs. 42 Cr/ Rs. 84.00 Lacs	07.02.2024 27.02.2024

Details can be seen on the websites **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in**, & **http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Bids are to be submitted through **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.

Raj.Samwad/C/23/13209 **Jt. Director**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-B

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-23(B)/23-24 **Dt:20.02.2024**

Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-23/23-24 dt 29.12.23 **"Toilet Renovation works in CISF Barracks at SMP & ETF"** (T/C-23-093, Est. cost ₹11.84 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 04.03.2024**. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
Mobile No. 96461-55525

E-Tender Enq. No. 517/P-3/EMPW-12493 dated 16.02.24
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_118299_1 for Breakdown/ Preventive Mtc. & Overhauling of DM Plants, D.G. Sets, Compressors, Hydrogen gas plants, Fire protection system, AC system and other allied Mechanical Auxiliaries of stage-II and III for 4 units BHEL make 210 MW each and work of Central Mechanical Workshop at GGSSTP, Rupnagar.
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 19.02.24/ 05.00 PM onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

RTP- 25/24 **76155/12/2728/2023/32653**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646123323)

TENDER INQUIRY No. PPR-08/2024 **Dated 20.02.2024**

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No.D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy (RE-Solar) from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 7th March 2024 to 9th June 2024. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com) For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.mstcecommerce.com from 19.02.2024 onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.mstcecommerce.com

C-137/24 **76155/12/2729/2023/32656**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646123323)

TENDER INQUIRY No. PPR-09/2024 **Dated 20.02.2024**

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No.D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy (RE-Non Solar) from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 7th March 2024 to 9th June 2024. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com) For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.mstcecommerce.com from 19.02.2024 onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.mstcecommerce.com

C-138/24 **76155/12/2730/2023/32658**

INBRIEF

India to display relics of Lord Buddha in Thailand

India will hold an exposition of some of the relics of Lord Buddha, which are in its possession, in Thailand from February 22 to March 18. The relics (20 bone fragments) have been preserved at the National Museum in New Delhi. At first the relics would be kept at the National Museum, Bangkok, and would then be exhibited at five different venues across Thailand, a Union Culture Ministry official said. The relics of Lord Buddha along with the relics of two of his disciples, preserved in Madhya Pradesh's Sanchi, are being sent on the request of the Thai government, an official said. The Buddha relics were excavated from Piprahwa in Uttar Pradesh.

Drug worth ₹2,000 cr. seized in Pune, New Delhi; 3 arrested

Police have seized 1,100kg of synthetic stimulant drug mephedrone, estimated to be worth more than ₹2,000 crore, following raids in Pune district and New Delhi and arrested three persons, officials said on Tuesday. The persons arrested in connection with the biggest-ever drug seizure according to the Pune police were booked under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act), they said, adding two other men are being questioned in connection with the same case. Pune police commissioner Amitesh Kumar said 700kg of mephedrone was seized from different locations in Pune district. PTI

NHRC seeks report from DGCA on death at airport

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Tuesday issued a notice to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) over the death of an 80-year-old man at the Mumbai airport after he failed to get a wheelchair despite prior request to the airline. According to reports, there were 32 passengers who needed wheelchair on the particular flight, but there were only 15 available with the ground staff. The octogenarian collapsed after walking around a kilometre and a half. The DGCA should send a detailed report to the commission on the matter within four weeks, the NHRC said.

800 athletes reach Kashmir for Khelo India Winter games

Around 800 athletes arrived in Kashmir on Tuesday to participate in the fourth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, as the venue, Gulmarg, received more than three feet of fresh snowfall in the past 48 hours. An official said the athletes from across the country will participate in events like snowboarding, alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, and ski mountaineering. "The field of play has been set up by the best technical teams. We aim to provide international standards to the players. Snow beaters have been made functional to set the stage for the games," Nuzhat Gul, secretary, J&K Sports Council, said. Gulmarg is one of the few destinations in the country deemed fit for winter games.

Rules that edge out women from jobs due to marriage illegal: SC

Regulations based on gender-based bias unconstitutional, it says; asks govt. to pay compensation to a woman permanent commissioned officer

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The court said terminating employment because the woman has got married is a coarse case of gender discrimination. FILE PHOTO

Rules that bully women employees out of their jobs for getting married or having domestic issues amount to "coarse gender discrimination" and are plainly unconstitutional, the Supreme Court has said.

"Terminating employment because the woman has got married is a coarse case of gender discrimination and inequality. Acceptance of such patriarchal rule undermines human dignity, right to non-discrimination and fair treatment. Laws and regulations based on gender-based bias are constitutionally impermissible," the court said in a recent order.

The observations were part of an order which upheld the rights of a woman permanent commissioned officer in the Military Nursing Service who was discharged for getting married.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna directed the Union Government to pay former Lieutenant Selina John ₹60 lakh in compensation within eight weeks as a full and final settlement of all her claims. The government had come in appeal against a decision of the Lucknow Bench of the Armed Forces Tribunal which had ruled in her favour.

Noting that her release from services was both "wrong and illegal", the Supreme Court found that the rule against marriage was applicable only to women nursing officers. The rule was "*ex facie* manifestly arbitrary".

"Rules making marriage of women employees and their domestic involvement a ground for disentitlement would be unconstitutional," the order noted.

The court also recorded that the Army instruction concerned with the terms and conditions of service for the grant of permanent commissions in the Military Nursing Service was withdrawn in 1995.

'India to seek $26 bn private investment in nuclear power sector'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India will invite private companies to invest about $26 billion in its nuclear energy sector to increase the amount of electricity from sources that do not produce carbon dioxide emissions, two government officials said.

This is the first time that New Delhi is pursuing private investment in nuclear power, a non-carbon-emitting energy source that contributes less than 2% of India's total electricity generation. The funding would help India achieve its target of having 50% of its installed electric generation capacity use non-fossil fuels by 2030, up from 42% now.

The government is in talks with at least five private firms, including Reliance Industries, Tata Power, Adani Power, and Vedanta Ltd., to invest around ₹440 billion ($5.3 billion) each, the two officials, who are directly involved in the matter, said on the condition of anonymity last week.

With the investment, the government hopes to build 11,000 megawatts (MW) of new nuclear power generation capacity by 2040, said the officials, adding that the plan is still being finalised.

The state-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) owns and operates the country's fleet of nuclear power plants, with a capacity of 7,500 MW, and has committed investments for another 1,300 MW.

The Department of Atomic Energy and NPCIL have held multiple rounds of discussions with the private firms in the past year on the investment plan, the officials said.

The Department of Atomic Energy, NPCIL, Tata Power, Reliance Industries, Adani Power, and Vedanta did not respond to queries.

The officials said under the funding plan, the private companies will make the investments in the nuclear plants, acquire land, water, and undertake construction in areas outside the reactor complex of the plants. But the rights to build and run the stations and their fuel management will rest with NPCIL as allowed under the law, they said. The private companies are expected to earn revenue from the power plant's electricity sales and NPCIL would operate the projects for a fee, the officials said.

Shashi Tharoor

Tharoor gets highest civilian award of France

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor was conferred the 'Chevalier de la Legion d' Honneur', the highest civilian honour in France, at an intimate ceremony at the French Embassy on Tuesday.

The French government had announced the award for Mr. Tharoor in August 2022, but the formal conferring took place on Tuesday.

Mr. Tharoor said his relationship with France began during his UN stint and that he always "nurtured a sense of profound respect for French democracy" as the land where "the people" first replaced "the king" as the nucleus of the nation. "The conferral of this award to an Indian is also an acknowledgement of deepening of Franco-Indian relations," he said.

BJP leader Suvendu visits Sandeshkhali after HC intervention

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, was allowed to visit Sandeshkhali on Tuesday at the intervention of the Calcutta High Court.

The BJP leader had been stopped by the police from visiting the area on two occasions earlier this month, after protests broke out on the island over allegations of sexual assault and land grab by local Trinamool Congress leaders.

Hundreds of people, including women, came to greet Mr. Adhikari at the island. Women also broke down as they narrated their plight to the BJP MLA.

During the day, the Division Bench expressed its disappointment that the prime accused [Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan] remained absconding.

CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat was also allowed to visit Sandeshkhali.

She claimed that lawlessness prevailed on the island.

Journalist remanded in police custody

A court at Basirhat in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas on Tuesday remanded a journalist from Sandeshkhali in police custody for three days. Santu Pan, a journalist with a TV news channel, was arrested on Monday. The arrest was caught live on television as he was dragged from the Sandeshkhali ferry ghat. The arrest has drawn condemnation from the Editor's Guild.

Study finds rise in blood clots, heart inflammation after COVID vaccination

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

One of the largest assessments of its kind, spanning 99 million people and investigating reports of adverse reactions following COVID-19 vaccination, found that instances of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, myocarditis, pericarditis, and cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) were at least 1.5 times more than expected following inoculation with mRNA and ChAdOX1 vaccines.

This is in line with previous observations by the World Health Organization and the European Medicines Agency, and was what led to these being classified as rare side effects following the vaccination for COVID-19.

The data set did not include patients from India. However, a majority of Indians were administered the ChAdOX1, or Covishield, vaccines during the pandemic

The data set did not include patients from India.

The need for rapid development and administration of vaccines saw a range of new approaches to vaccination, namely the use of synthetic viral particles, or protein constructs being administered following shortened testing programmes.

Guillain-Barre syndrome is a disorder in which the immune system attacks the nerves. While rarely fatal, it can cause muscular damage and can require prolonged treatment. CVST refers to blood clots in the brain. Myocarditis and pericarditis are inflammation of the heart tissue. All of these are serious conditions and potentially fatal.

The Global Covid Vaccine Safety Project, which made the assessment, compiled electronic healthcare data on adverse events related to COVID-19 vaccines from participants across multiple sites, including Argentina, Australia, Canada, and Denmark.

The analysis involved computing the so-called OE ratios, or observed versus expected ratios. This means first healthcare providers, having a baseline 'expectation' of how many adverse events are likely given a certain number of vaccinated people, and comparing it with the number of events actually reported to health systems. Expectations are formed based on experience with the rates of vaccination, and reactions observed historically. Ratios greater than 1.5 or, in other words, 50% more adverse-reaction reports than what is expected, are considered "potential safety signals", or necessitating a thorough investigation.

"OE ratios >1.5 were observed for Guillain-Barré syndrome and cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (3.23) following the first dose of ChAdOx1 vaccine," notes the study, published this month in the peer-reviewed journal *Vaccine*.

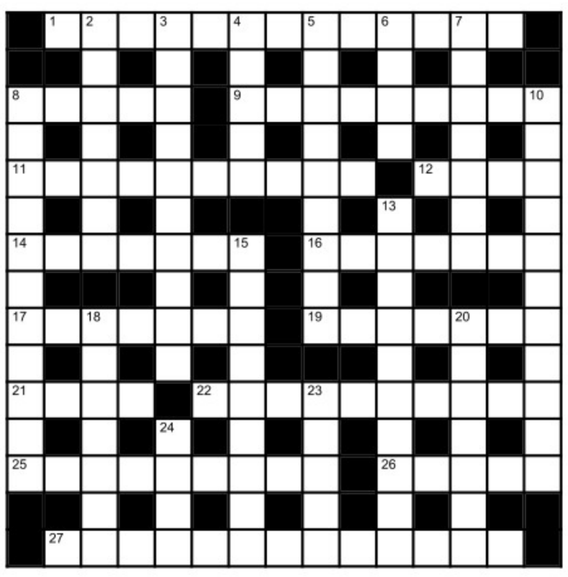
As on December 6, 2022, a total of 92,003 adverse events following immunisation have been reported in India since the start of vaccination, the Health Ministry told Parliament. This is about 0.009% of Indians who took COVID-19 vaccines.

TH CROSSWORD + 14103

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Difference in attitudes breaking up ageing parent and son essentially (10,3)
8 Forces controlled by Maoist in underground revolution (5)
9 Men reviewed problem with main knob controlling church pipes (5,4)
11 / 18 Detailed narrative in breezy weather report? (4-2-4,7)
12 Hotel just needs strong locks (4)
14 Characters in terrible unrest around America (7)
16 Rebellious writer in European country acting out awkwardly (7)
17 Worrying about daughter hooking up on the internet (1-6)
19 Granitic rock is found in lawn (7)
21 Every beauty's topless (4)
22 Swindle by phoney tourism company (10)
25 More courageous with money belt (9)
26 Dog picking up right scent (5)
27 Gain an advantage over some charlatan easily (5,1,5,2)

Down

2 Remove part of text from it due to blunders (4,3)
3 Order of demolition finally liberates Cold War capital (4,6)
4 America, Britain hosting gathering about nuclear weapon (1-4)
5 Popular girl arguing is getting under one's skin (9)
6 Number series, new for student (4)
7 Seduce a model with finesse, overcoming resistance (7)
8 Myth or otherwise, a blunder to consume dope (5,6)
10 Socialite raised drink, cuddling pretentious maiden in a retreat (5,6)
13 Erotic item shaped like a heavenly body (10)
15 Unmarried Italian woman and character cavorting on air (9)
18 See 11 Across
20 Largely formal event featuring a Greek dish (7)
23 Extremely scary broadcast about Middle Eastern country (5)
24 Hunter heartlessly traps bird (4)

SUDOKU

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No.SS6075 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

		T	O	O	B	I	G	F	O	R	O	N	E	S
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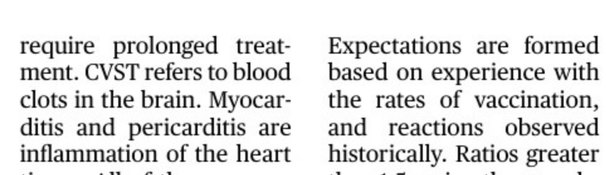
T	A	B	A	S	C	O		S	C	A	M	P	E	R
E		O		E		T				L		E		E
A	G	O	G		B	I	L	L	O	F	F	A	R	E
R		K		E		T		A		I		F		T
S	P	L	E	N	D	O	U	R		B	O	O	T	S
		E		O		U		G		R		W		
	S	T	I	L	E	T	T	O	H	E	E	L	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	8	6	1	3	4	7	5
5	6	3	4	7	9	8	1	2
4	1	7	8	5	2	9	3	6
7	9	6	2	4	1	5	8	3
3	4	2	5	9	8	1	6	7
8	5	1	3	6	7	2	4	9
1	7	4	9	2	6	3	5	8
6	8	9	1	3	5	7	2	4
2	3	5	7	8	4	6	9	1



FAITH

Duty of *Prapannas*

The gist of Vedanta is *saranagathi* or surrender. A person who has taken refuge in God with an absolute surrender through an Acharya is called *Prapannan*; his cherished desire will be to attain *moksha*. What will happen to him if he commits misdeeds after his *saranagathi*? Sri Anantha Padmanabhachariar Swamy, in a discourse, quoted the 13th passage "Apachara Pariharam" of *Rahasya Ratnavali*.

Lord Krishna says that *Sruthi* and *Smruthi*, which deal with the codes of conduct, are His orders, and He does not consider those who transgress them favourably.

A duty is cast upon the *Prapannas* not to commit mistakes, but due to the influence of our past deeds (*prarabhdha*), we are disturbed and forced to commit errors. Deeds that are not to be done are done and acts that ought to be performed are omitted (*Krithya akarana, Akruthya karana*). Also, sometimes people cite noble and pious elders as examples to justify their mistakes.

A person may commit mistakes or misdeeds in two ways. Knowing fully well with cognisance, and the other, by mistake. Scriptures say there is no punishment for the second type, but for the first type, the person will face some punishments, and God accepts him only after that. If he realises his mistake, repents and resolves not to repeat it, he may go scot-free.

INBRIEF

Sun to buy 16.33% in U.S.'s Surgimatix for $3.05 million

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has decided to acquire 16.33% stake for about $3.05 million in Surgimatix Inc., an Illinois-headquartered firm developing a proprietary soft tissue fixation device for laparoscopic hernia repair and other minimally invasive surgeries. The acquisition is expected to be completed by this month, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions, Sun Pharma said on Tuesday, announcing the signing of an agreement with the U.S. firm.

TechM acquires Philippines BPO firm for Australian $5 mn

Tech Mahindra said it has acquired Orchid Cybertech Services Inc. (OCSI), a BPO firm in Philippines that is a service provider to Australia's TPG Telecom. The acquisition of 100% shareholding is for Australian $5 million and undertaken through wholly owned subsidiary vCustomer Philippines Inc. OCSI, including its assets and employees, will become part of TechM and TechM will provide customer support and other services to TPG, TechM said in a filing.

CCI allows Minda Corp to acquire up to 8.79% in Pricol

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of up to about 8.79% of equity shares of Pricol by Minda Corporation. The CCI said in a release that the acquirer (Minda Corporation) is engaged in manufacture of auto components and caters to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and tier-1 suppliers in India, while the target company (Pricol) manufactures auto components for OEMs, tier-1 and replacement markets in India and abroad.

'Consumers upbeat, inflation to cool'

Private consumption trends indicate buoyant consumer sentiment, FinMin notes in its monthly economic review; adds it expects household consumption to improve, capital formation prospects to rise with an upturn in the private capex cycle

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The outlook for a "reasonably low headline inflation rate is good", the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday, citing the steady fall in core inflation and moderation in food prices along with higher foodgrain buffer stocks and healthy rabi harvest prospects.

Terming strong private consumption as the "bedrock of high growth", the ministry in its monthly economic review for January said India's private consumption trends now reflect "buoyant consumer sentiment that is generally associated with reduced economic uncertainty".

The ministry said that household consumption was expected to improve, while capital formation prospects were bright owing to an upturn in the private capex cycle, healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates, and the Centre's capital expenditure thrust.

Although merchandise exports had declined about 5% so far this year, the ministry noted an improvement in the global trade outlook and said rising integration in the global supply chain would support net external demand. However, the ministry said, there were downside risks including a spike in commodity prices from geopolitical shocks, and more persistent underlying inflation in the developed world, which could extend tight monetary conditions and hurt exports.

With rabi sowing slightly higher than last year, the ministry asserted that high reservoir levels, adequate availability of fertilisers and seeds, and growing tractor sales support improvements in sowing acreage and output. That total foodgrain stocks stood at 3.2 times the buffer norm requirement for Jan.-Mar. would aid in "curbing inflationary pressures," the ministry stated.

Bright prospects

FinMin expects headline inflation to be reasonably low due to fall in core inflation and strong agricultural output

- Total foodgrain stocks, at 3.2 times the buffer norm requirement for Jan.-March to curb inflation
- Improved global trade outlook, integration of global supply chain to buoy net external demand
- Commodity prices, tight monetary policy in the West seen as risks

'Rural consumption slumped to an 18-quarter low in Q3'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Dry quarter: It is clear that rural spending, especially the agri sector, remained weak in Q3, the economists wrote. NAGARA GOPAL

India's rural spending fell for the second successive quarter, slumping 1.9% in the October-December quarter with consumption levels in the hinterland hitting an 18-quarter low, even as urban consumption grew at a five-quarter high pace of 9.8%, Motilal Oswal Financial Services reckoned in a report.

The firm's economists based their conclusion on the simple average of 12 proxy indicators for rural consumption, which had contracted 0.5% in the preceding quarter. Similarly, nine indicators were used to assess urban consumption, which they said had improved sharply from the 6.9% growth logged in the second quarter.

"It is clear that rural spending, especially the agricultural sector, remained weak in Q3," they wrote, citing the continuous deterioration in reservoir levels, farm exports, tractor sales and muted wage growth. These factors outpaced improvements seen in two-wheeler sales, fertiliser availability and real farm credit flows.

Urban spending was reflected in "continued robustness" in passenger vehicle sales, personal credit growth and a 10.5% rise in salary bill of BSE 500 firms during Q3, they said.

Inflation expectations may stabilise, edge down, say RBI officials

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

'Inflation events turning favourable, providing a stable environment for corporates to plan'

Inflation expectations may stabilise and edge down although renewed pressures from cereals and proteins cannot be ruled out, Reserve Bank of India officials wrote in an article in the RBI's February bulletin released on Tuesday.

Citing the fact that retail inflation slowed to a three-month low of 5.1% in January, from December's 5.69%, the officials noted that overall inflation developments were turning favourable, providing a stable environment for corporates to plan expansion strategies in anticipation of a demand pick-up.

"Non-food wholesale price inflation remains in deflation," they wrote in the article on the 'State of the Economy'. "This should augur well for the input cost outlook and selling prices of manufacturing firms," they added.

A fresh round of capital spending by corporates would likely fuel the next leg of growth, they wrote.

MARKETS

-1.59MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,057	0.48
US Dollar	82.97	0.04
Gold	62,700	-0.15
Brent oil	82.22	-1.59

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3228.60	-30.20
Adani Ports	1300.50	-6.50
Apollo Hosp	6759.45	102.30
Asian Paints	3011.65	13.55
Axis Bank	1088.60	25.65
Bajaj Auto	8295.20	-214.50
Bajaj Finserv	1602.85	-17.30
Bajaj Finance	6763.60	50.80
Bharti Airtel	1143.95	1.75
BPCL	657.60	5.05
Britannia Ind	4921.15	-4.10
Cipla	1451.65	-18.70
Coal India	446.50	-14.50
Divis Lab	3712.75	-10.70
Dr Reddys Lab	6376.00	-41.15
Eicher Motors	3828.10	-74.75
Grasim Ind	2192.25	23.65
HCL Tech	1663.05	-12.20
HDFC Bank	1454.30	37.20
HDFC Life	587.95	2.75
Hero MotoCorp	4663.35	-189.25
Hindalco	511.60	-0.70
Hind Unilever	2404.10	16.95
ICICI Bank	1048.75	5.00
IndusInd Bank	1504.20	20.60
Infosys	1685.25	-14.50
ITC	406.10	-3.15
JSW Steel	821.20	1.00
Kotak Bank	1762.50	31.10
L&T	3356.75	16.90
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5504.35	-9.70
M&M	1853.65	5.10
Maruti Suzuki	11446.45	-36.90
NestleIndia	2539.40	26.15
NTPC	345.70	6.95
ONGC	276.60	1.95
PowerGrid Corp	287.90	11.55
Reliance Ind	2942.05	-5.95
SBI Life	1513.55	24.70
State Bank	760.10	0.85
Sun Pharma	1538.70	8.60
TataConsumerProduct	1154.40	-0.60
Tata Motors	926.35	-6.25
Tata Steel	141.05	-0.90
TCS	4030.65	-73.15
Tech Mahindra	1320.55	10.55
Titan	3686.70	-8.35
UltraTech Cement	9978.95	76.75
UPL	498.05	0.50
Wipro	531.95	-4.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 20

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.76	83.08
Euro	89.37	89.72
British Pound	104.36	104.77
Japanese Yen (100)	55.07	55.29
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.54
Swiss Franc	93.86	94.24
Singapore Dollar	61.53	61.78
Canadian Dollar	61.34	61.58
Malaysian Ringitt	17.24	17.32
Australian Dollar	54.21	54.43

Source:Indian Bank

TVS SCS extends contract with Rolls-Royce

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS) announced its contract with Rolls-Royce had been extended for 5 years till 2029.

The partnership extension will be for the Parts Distribution Centre (PDC) in Singapore serving the Asia Pacific markets for Rolls-Royce's Power Systems business unit. The collaboration between TVS SCS and Rolls-Royce Power Systems regional centre, Rolls-Royce Solutions Asia, began in early 2013 to enhance productivity at the PDC with an Automated Storage and Retrieval System, TVS SCS said.

Duties on blueberries, cotton, cranberries from U.S. slashed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India effected sharp cuts in import duties on frozen turkey, blueberries and cranberries, and scrapped the duty on extra-long staple (ELS) cotton making it easier for U.S. exporters to tap the Indian market, as per a Finance Ministry decision.

The move, which will make it easier for producers to meet Indian consumers' demand for these items that are generally not produced locally, stems from bilateral trade talks between India and the U.S. held on the sidelines of the G20 leaders' summit.

The two sides had agreed to resolve outstanding disputes at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) concerning the import of certain agricultural products. "These tariff cuts will expand economic opportunities for U.S. agricultural producers in a critical market and help bring more U.S. products to customers in India," U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai's office had said at the time.

Frozen turkey meat and edible offal imports will now attract 5% import levies compared with 30% earlier. Duties on frozen and dried blueberries and cranberries has been slashed to 10% from 30%. Preserved or prepared cranberries will attract a 5% import duty, while packaged blueberries will face a 10% levy.

A textile industry official said 26% of India's cotton imports last year were of the ELS variety, which is not produced here, and ongoing efforts to grow such cotton will take time. "Why would the domestic industry import the cotton if it was available locally? For those using U.S. and Egyptian cotton, the zero import duty on ELS cotton will improve global competitiveness," he added.

'Paytm app back to steady business after RBI's clarifications'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The clarifications issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) via its Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) has helped Paytm to achieve 'normalcy' in business, a company official said without quantifying the recovery in volume.

"The RBI had confirmed through the FAQ that Paytm QR, Soundbox and card machine will continue to operate seamlessly for all merchant partners," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "After that the company is back to steady business."

The official said the company's decision to open an escrow account with Axis Bank to continue seamless merchant settlements as before had also helped reassure customers.

Paytm's stock hit the 5% upper circuit for the third straight session on the BSE on Tuesday.

IT sector's return boosts corporate air travel: Virgin Atlantic

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

After a long delay, a strong rebound in demand from the IT sector has spurred air travel for business purposes, said Luke Goggin, Virgin Atlantic's vice president for Global Sales.

"The industry that had not caught up fast was technology and IT," Mr. Goggin said in an interaction with *The Hindu*.

"That has completely changed. In the fourth quarter, the fastest growing and most valuable customers are technology and IT customers," he added.

He explained that corporate travel recovery post the COVID-19 pandemic started with small businesses, followed by financial services which had back-end offices and regional offices in India.

The London-headquartered airline announced the unveiling of its fourth flight to India, which would connect Bengaluru with London Heathrow, from March 31. With Bengaluru being India's IT capital, the airline expects to see flights out of the city to account for its highest share of corporate travellers out of India by as much as 30% of the aircraft capacity.

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Mechanical Engg. Dept., K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-27, Tele No: 080-22537519.
TENDER NO: BMTC/2023-24/SE0217/CALL-3 Dated: 20.02.2024
SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-procurement mode only)
(1) BMTC invites Tender through E-Procurement Portal for Selection of Service Provider for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of 120 Nos.900mm floor height, 9 mtr City type Non AC Electric Buses on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model.
(2) Last Date for Bid Submission in e-procurement portal is **27.02.2024** before **17.00 Hrs.**
Any changes in calendar of events, scope or other terms & conditions will be uploaded in e-portal only.
NOTE: Interested Bidders need to register in the GoK e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further assistance, contact e-procurement Help Desk for support on bid submission over Ph: **080-46010000,** or **080-68948777** or email at **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com.**
Sd/- CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER (Tender Inviting Authority)

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)
Tenders are invited for the following works through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** : (1) No. KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT1244, Dated: 17.02.2024 for **Assistance to Operation and Routine and Breakdown maintenance works of wagon tipplers, Side arm chargers & track hopper system and allied equipments of Area-1 coal handling plant of Unit-1&2, BTPS.** Total Tender Amount : **Rs. 2,27,25,665/-.** EMD: **Rs. 3,41,000/-. (2)** No. KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT1248, Dated: 17.02.2024 for **Assistance for Operation and Routine & Break down maintenance works of Crusher houses, belt conveyors and allied equipments of Area-2 coal handling plant of Unit-1&2, BTPS.** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 1,47,15,691/-.** EMD: **Rs. 2,21,000/-.** (3) No. KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT1249, Dated: 17.02.2024 for **Assistance to operation and Routine and Breakdown maintenance works of Stacker cum Reclaimers & belt conveyors and allied equipments of Area-3 coal handling plant of Unit-1&2, BTPS.** Total tender Amount: **Rs. 1,68,62,806/-.** EMD: **Rs. 2,53,000/-.** (4) No. KPCL/2023-24/PS WORK_INDENT 1250, Dated: 17.02.2024 for **Assistance to operation and Routine and Breakdown maintenance works of Travelling tipplers and belt conveyors of Area-4 coal handling plant of Unit-1&2, BTPS.** Total tender Amount: **Rs. 2,13,97,085/-.** EMD: **Rs. 3,21,000/-.** (5) No. KPCL/2023-24/PS WORK_INDENT1243, Dated: 17.02.2024 for **Maintenance and assistance to operation of pumps for dust suppression system of coal handling plant of Unit-1&2 for a period of one year.** Total tender Amount: **Rs. 45,80,764/-.** EMD: **Rs. 92,000/-.** (6) No. KPCL/2023-24/PS WORK_INDENT1199, Dated: 13.02.2024 for **Supply, Erection/modification/ Rerouting of Hydrant/Spray/Hydrant Booster pipeline and testing & commissioning with existing pipelines of Fire protection system at BTPS.** Amount put to tender : **Rs. 29,77,742/-.** EMD: **Rs.59,555/-.** Contract Period: **180 days.** Last date for submission of bids: for Sl.No. (1) to (5) **02.03.2024 up to 17.00 Hrs.** and for Sl.No. (6) **14.03.2024., 11.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer(CHP)Mechanical-1, M.No. 9448290756** for Sl.No. (1) to (5) and **Executive Engineer(Safety), M.No. 9448290770** for Sl.No. (6), **BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152, Bellary District, Karnataka.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:–08192–234640
E-mail Id:- deo.davanagere@gmail.com
ನಂ.ಚುನಾವಣೆ/ಸಿಆರ್/121/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.02.2024
ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಮುಂಬರುವ 2024 ರ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಲೇಖನಾ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕುರಿತು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Two Covers System) ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ವಿವರ:– 2024 ರ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚುನಾವಣೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಲೇಖನಾ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕುರಿತು ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ:RD/2023-24/IND0137
ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ:– ರೂ. 35.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:– 87,500/–
ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 23.02.2024
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 26.02.2024
ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 27.02.2024
ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಚುನಾವಣೆಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಾಗುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಅಥವಾ ಯಾವುದೇ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/622/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24
ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, West Zone, Room No.101, Annex-3 Building, N. R. Square, Bangalore-02.
No: EE(QA/QC)/West/TEND/04/23-24 Date: 20.02.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)
Through GoK KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only
The Executive Engineer, West Zone, BBMP, Quality Assurance/ Quality Control division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works:

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1)	**Comprehensive Development of Roads, Drains and Footpath in Govindarajanagar Constituency (Package-GRN-18).** Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs): **1300.00. PMC Cost** (Rs. in lakhs): **13.00. EMD** (in Rs.): **32,500/-.**
2)	**Comprehensive Development of Building Community Hall and Improvements of Food Street in Govindarajanagar Constituency (Package-GRN-19).** Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs): **1000.00. PMC Cost** (Rs. in lakhs): **10.00. EMD** (in Rs.): **25,000/-.**
3)	**Comprehensive Development of Parks, RO Plants and Beautification of Under pass in Govindarajanagar Constituency (Package-GRN-20).** Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs): **1200.00. PMC Cost** (Rs. in lakhs): **12.00. EMD** (in Rs.): **30,000/-.**
4)	**Upgradation of Urban Primary Health Centers (UPHC's) in Yelahanka Zone of BBMP limits. (Call-2)** Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs): **153.43. PMC Cost** (Rs. in lakhs): **2.40. EMD** (in Rs.): **6,000/-.**

Date of Calender: 1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **22-02-2024. 2.** Pre bid Meeting on **26-02-2024 at 4.00 p.m. 3.** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **02-03-2024 up to 4.30 p.m. 4.** Date of opening of technical Bid**: 04-03-2024 at 4.00 p.m.**
Sd/-, Executive Engineer, (QA/QC) Division, BBMP.

LONDON

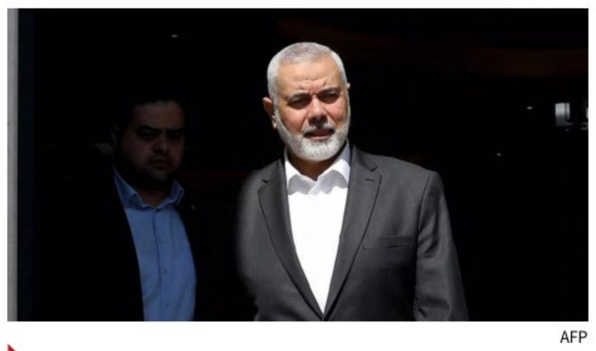
Prince William appeals for an end to fighting in Gaza at the earliest

AFP

Prince William, the heir to the British throne, called on Tuesday for an end to fighting in the Gaza Strip as soon as possible. In a statement released by his office at Kensington Palace, he stopped short of calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza as the House of Commons prepares for a vote on that issue on Wednesday. AP

CAIRO

Hamas chief arrives in Egypt for negotiations on ceasefire in Gaza



AFP

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh arrived in Cairo on Tuesday for talks with Egyptian officials, days after mediators said chances for a new truce with Israel had dimmed. The head of Hamas's political bureau will "hold talks with Egyptian officials on the political situation and the situation in the field", a statement said. AFP

MOSCOW

Kremlin arrests U.S.-Russian woman on charges of treason

AFP

Russia's FSB security services said on Tuesday it had arrested a U.S.-Russian woman suspected of treason for raising funds for the Ukrainian Army. The FSB in Yekaterinburg said it had "suppressed the illegal activities" of a 33-year-old woman, a resident of Los Angeles with dual citizenship, and taken her into custody. AFP

THE HAGUE

South Africa accuses Israel of apartheid against Palestinians

REUTERS

South Africa argued at the United Nations' top court on Tuesday that Israel is responsible for apartheid against the Palestinians and that Israel's occupation of land sought for a Palestinian state is "inherently and fundamentally illegal." Israel rejects such claims. Israel is also not making a statement during the hearings. AP

Sick Assange absent at extradition hearing

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was on Tuesday absent due to illness from a London court hearing his final appeal against extradition to the United States to face trial for publishing secret military and diplomatic files.

Opening the two-day hearing in Mr. Assange's absence, his lawyer Edward Fitzgerald said his prosecution could not be justified.

Washington wants the Australian extradited after he was charged there multiple times between 2018 and 2020 over WikiLeaks' 2010 publication of files relating to the US-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"He is being prosecuted for engaging in ordinary journalistic practice of obtaining and publishing classified information, information that is both true and of obvious and important public interest," Mr. Fitzgerald said.

U.S. vetoes UN vote on Gaza ceasefire, pushes alternative

The resolution, prepared by Algeria, had called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire; Washington says pact would put 'sensitive negotiations in jeopardy' risking the release of hostages

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

The United States vetoed a UN Security Council resolution on Tuesday that called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, even as President Joe Biden faced mounting pressure to dial back support for Israel.

The resolution, which Algeria had been working on for three weeks, had demanded "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire that must be respected by all parties."

"Proceeding with a vote today was wishful and irresponsible... we cannot support a resolution that would put sensitive negotiations in jeopardy," said Washington's Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield, while advocating an alternate resolution drafted by the U.S.

The vote came as Israel prepares to move into the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah, where some 1.4 million people have fled, as part of its mission to destroy the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

Failed bid: The UN Security Council holds a meeting on the Gaza war, at the UN Headquarters in New York on Wednesday. AFP

However Israel is facing increased pressure to hold off, including from its closest ally the United States.

The draft resolution had opposed the "forced displacement of the Palestinian civilian population."

It additionally demanded the release of all hostages taken by Hamas in an attack on October 7.

But, similarly to other previous drafts spurned by the U.S. and Israel, the text did not condemn that assault by Hamas, which left about 1,160 people dead in southern Israel, mostly civilians.

Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed more than 29,000 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the latest count by the Hamas-run territory's Health Ministry.

U.S.'s head up

The U.S. warned over the weekend that Algeria's text was not acceptable, threatening to veto it.

Washington had argued that the passage of such a ceasefire resolution would endanger ongoing delicate diplomatic negotiations which could see the release of hostages from Gaza. The U.S. instead circulated an alternate draft.

While that text does include the word "ceasefire" – which the U.S. has previously avoided, vetoing two drafts in October and December which used the term – it does not call for the end of hostilities to happen immediately.

UNICEF says one in six Gaza children malnourished

Associated Press
RAFAH

Israel ordered new evacuations from parts of Gaza City on Tuesday, as a study led by the UN children's agency found that one in six children are acutely malnourished in the isolated and largely devastated north of the territory, where the city is located.

The report by the Global Nutrition Cluster, an aid partnership led by UNICEF, says more than 90% of children under 5 in Gaza eat two or fewer food groups a day, known as severe food poverty. A similar percentage are affected by infectious diseases.

The Israeli military ordered the evacuation of the Zaytoun and Turkoman neighbourhoods on the southern edge of Gaza City, an indication that Palestinian militants are still putting up stiff resistance in areas of northern Gaza that the Israeli military said had been largely cleared.

India, Sri Lanka move forward with talks on trade agreement

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The pact was stalled in the past due to opposition from some worker unions and hardline Sinhala-nationalist politicians

India and Sri Lanka are set to take ongoing discussions on the Economic and Trade Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) forward, with the next two rounds of bilateral talks scheduled later this month and in March.

The progress in negotiations is significant for New Delhi and Colombo, as the much-discussed pact was stalled in the past, owing to stiff opposition from some worker unions and hardline Sinhala-nationalist politicians, who saw the agreement as favouring Indian interests predominantly, while endangering Sri Lankan labour. At least 11 rounds of discussions were held between 2016 and 2019, when the Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe administration was in power, but the two sides failed to reach an agreement amid protests in Sri Lanka.

President Wickremesinghe has emphasised the need for trade pacts to aid the country's economic recovery. Earlier this month, Sri Lanka inked a free trade pact with Thailand. India, followed by China, are the other two key partners with which Mr. Wickremesinghe is keen to have upgraded agreements, even as Sri Lankans reel under the painful aftermath of a financial meltdown.

After talks on the stalled pact resumed under President Wickremesinghe last year, substantial discussions have been held. The Sri Lankan government sees the resumption of ETCA negotiations as "a significant step towards strengthening the economic partnership between Sri Lanka and India."

Sub-committees formed

According to an update issued after the Sri Lankan Cabinet met on Monday, the 13th round of discussions on the proposed ETCA was held in New Delhi for 10 days beginning January 8, 2024. Nine sub-committees tasked with looking into various aspects such as goods trade, service trade, rules of the origin and customs procedure and easing the trade held deliberations.

Official sources familiar with the negotiations told *The Hindu* that the two sides are exploring ways of linking service trade to investments to ensure there is no threat to local labour. "Free movement of individual professionals is not anticipated in the agreement," a senior official said. Mr. Wickremesinghe on Monday briefed his Cabinet on the talks, and the 14th round of discussions of the proposed agreement is scheduled to be held on the first week of March 2024, the official press release said.

India and Sri Lanka first signed a free trade agreement in 1998. While the two sides have since attempted to upgrade it multiple times, the attempts proved unsuccessful.

Navalny's mother asks Putin to release body

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The mother of Alexei Navalny urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to "immediately" release the body of her son, in her first comments since his death in an Arctic prison.

Navalny's mother, Lyudmila Navalnaya, travelled to the remote IK-3 penal colony on Saturday, the morning after his death was announced, and has since been barred from seeing his body.

"I appeal to you, Vladimir Putin. The solution to the issue depends only on you," she said in a video published by his team.

"Let me finally see my son. I demand that Alexei's body be released immediately so that I can bury him in a humane way."

Kremlin rejects claim by Navalny's widow that he was killed by Putin

Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin did not see the video in which Alexei Navalny's widow vowed to continue his fight against the Kremlin, his spokesperson said on Tuesday. The spokesperson also dismissed her allegations that Mr. Putin had killed the country's opposition leader as "unfounded" and "insolent."

In the video released on Monday, Yulia Navalnaya accused Mr. Putin of killing her husband in the remote Artic prison and alleged that officials' refusal to hand over his body to his mother was part of a cover-up.

"They are cowardly and meanly hiding his body, refusing to give it to his mother and lying miserably while waiting for the trace of" poison to disappear, Ms. Navalnaya said.

She suggested her husband might have been killed with a Novichok-style nerve agent.

'Unknown cause'

Russian authorities said that the cause of Mr. Navalny's death on Friday is still unknown and the results of any investigation are likely to be questioned abroad. Many Western leaders have already said they hold Mr. Putin responsible for the death.

"These are absolutely unfounded, insolent accusations about the head of the Russian state," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Sport

Ramkumar shocks Napolitano

MAHA OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
PUNE

Ramkumar Ramanathan served big and stroked with intelligence to turn the tide in the nick of time in both sets as he knocked out Stefano Napolitano, the champion of the last tournament in Bengaluru, 7-6(5), 7-6(5) in the first round of the $133,250 Maha Open Challenger tennis tournament at the Balewadi Stadium on Tuesday.

After the Chennai Challenger champion Sumit Nagal had perspired to a 7-6 (6), 6-4 victory over Yu Hsiou Hsu of Chinese Taipei on the centre court, fans stayed on to cheer Ramkumar.

Ramkumar fired 15 aces and his imaginative stroke play and uncanny sharpness on the big points won him the match against the 204th ranked Italian.

Great win: Ramkumar pulled off a sparkling victory.
KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Ramkumar converted one of the nine break points in the match, while Napolitano won one of two break points, early in the match.

The woes of Sriram Balaji and Andre Begemann of Germany continued in doubles, as the fourth seeds lost in the first round, despite having a match point.

The results:

Singles (first round): Sumit Nagal bt Yu Hsiou Hsu (Tpe) 7-6(4), 6-4; Maks Kasnikowski (Pol) bt Seongchan Hong (Kor) 6-4, 6-2; Dane Sweeny (Aus) bt Maxime Janvier (Fra) 4-6, 6-1, 7-6(4); Valentin Vacherot (Mon) bt Vasek Pospisil (Can) 6-3, 7-5.

Enzo Couacaud (Fra) bt Bernard Tomic (Aus) 6-4, 6-2; Felix Gill (GBr) bt Coleman Wong (Hkg) 7-6(4), 4-6, 6-3; Adam Walton (Aus) bt Raphael Collignon (Bel) 7-6(1), 6-2; Alexey Zakharov bt Oliver Crawford (GBr) 7-6(4), 6-3.

Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Stefano Napolitano (Ita) 7-6(5), 7-6(5); Tristan Boyer (USA) & Oriol Roca Batalla (Esp) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; Duje Ajdukovic (Cro) bt Sebastian Fanselow (Ger) 5-7, 7-6(1), 6-3.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Siddhant Banthia & Parikshit Somani bt Luca Margaroli (Sui) & Goncalo Oliveira (Por) 5-7, 7-6(5), [10-5]; Tristan Schoolkate & Adam Walton (Aus) bt Sai Karteek Reddy & Karan Singh 3-6, 6-3, [10-4].

Toshihide Matsui & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) bt Sriram Balaji & Andre Begemann (Ger) 4-6, 7-6(5), [10-5].

Blitz ease past Spikers, earn their second victory

PVL

Netra V.
CHENNAI

Chennai Blitz stamped its authority over Kochi Blue Spikers with a dominant 3-0 win in the Prime Volleyball League season three at the SDAT multipurpose indoor stadium here on Tuesday.

Spikers was quick to take a 4-1 lead at the start, with Aman Kumar delivering a super serve. However, Blitz did not stay still as Dhilip Kumar showcased resistance, and the host restored parity at 7-7. Chennai captain Akhin G.S. combined with Douglas Bueno and Leandro Jose to ensure the team clinched the first set 15-10.

On the prowl: Dhilip dished out a commendable performance.
B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The two teams were neck and neck in the second set but Chennai managed to pull one through to 14-12 with Dhilip's pike shot. However, it was Sameer Chaudhary's one-hand push that cemented the second set 15-12.

Akhin guarded the defence and led its attack with Dhilip. Quiet in the second set, Abhinav came to form in the third with a spike towards Surya Nanjil, who failed to stop it as Kochi ensued a slender 6-4 advantage.

While Kochi commanded most of the third set, three successive points and a timeout saw the host make a comeback at 14-14. Dhilip and Jose teamed up for the double block and earned Chennai two straight points, 16-14, and its second win.

The result: Chennai Blitz bt Kochi Blue Spikers 3-0 (15-10, 15-12, 16-14).

REALITY CHECK

Jaiswal has learned from his upbringing, not Bazball: Hussain

VIJAY SONEJI

Nasser Hussain has lashed out at Ben Duckett for suggesting that Yashasvi Jaiswal's aggressive batting was influenced by England's Bazball ploy. "Jaiswal has not learned from Duckett, he has learned from his upbringing and all the hard yards he has put in, he has learned from the IPL. If anything, I'd learn from him," Hussain said.

BLESSED

Kohli and Anushka announce the birth of baby boy Akaay

ANI

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma announced on Tuesday that they were blessed with a baby boy. "With abundant happiness and our hearts full of love, we are pleased to inform everyone that on February 15, we welcomed our baby boy Akaay and Vamika's little brother into this world," Kohli posted on Instagram.

ROYAL RETURN

Rishabh Pant looks on course for much-anticipated IPL comeback

FILE PHOTO

Rishabh Pant remains on course for a comeback in the IPL after taking part in a practice game organised by his Delhi Capitals in Alur. "The match was part of assessing his mobility. He has been batting at nets for a while and playing in a practice game was more like an extension of it," said an NCA source.

THRILLER

U Mumba and Titans finish their campaigns with a perfect tie

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

U Mumba and Telugu Titans ended their campaigns on a thrilling note as they shared points in a gripping 45-45 tie in a Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 match at Panchkula on Tuesday. Titans skipper Pawan Sehrawat was the top performer with 14 raid points while U Mumba's Amirmohammad Zafardanesh finished with 11.

Capitals will be keen to go the distance in Season 2

The Meg Lanning-led outfit is one of the most balanced sides on paper; however, lack of multiple left-handed batters is an issue the franchise did not adequately address at the auction table

WPL COUNTDOWN

Lavanya L

Delhi Capitals did almost everything right in season one of the WPL to get its hands on the inaugural title. The side roped in an associate nation player to give itself a five-foreigner cushion. Power-hitting and stroke-play were both prioritised in the building of a solid batting line-up and the side's two-pronged pace attack featuring Shikha Pandey and Marizanne Kapp ran riot during the season. Capitals eventually watched Mumbai Indians get its name inscribed on the WPL trophy after falling short in the final and will seek revenge this time around.

A few chinks notwithstanding, the Meg Lanning-led side is still one of the most balanced ones on paper. The recently retired Australian finished as the Orange Cap holder in the WPL last year with 345 runs in nine games with a strike rate of 139.11.

She comes to India after a stellar run with the bat for Victoria in Australia's Women's National Cricket League.

The Lanning-Shafali Verma stand was a spectator's treat in the first chapter. An in-form Jemimah Rodrigues bolsters the middle-order with Alice Capsey providing a finishing option. However, the lack of multiple left-handed batters hurt the team before and is an issue the side has not addressed adequately in the auction.

Jess Jonassen, who seems to have dropped down the pecking order in the Australian national side, will be a useful resource for Lanning.

She also provides the lone left-hand batting option for the side and is a cool customer under pressure with bat and ball. India's Titas Sadhu might fancy more game time after a commanding show against Australia a few months ago.

However, the player to keep an eye on will be the side's only leg-spinner Poonam Yadav, who faded away from the national set-up after the 2020 T20 World Cup.

She comes into the tournament in good form (24 wickets in the inter-zonal tournament and 16 in the one-day trophy) and will hope to use the league as an audition to head back to the Indian side ahead of the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh later this year.

Terrific trio: Top-order batters Jemimah, Lanning and Shafali will look to give Capitals rousing starts. FILE PHOTO: SPORTZPICS/WPL

Capitals' schedule

At Bengaluru
Feb. 23: vs Mumbai Indians
Feb. 26: UP Warriorz
Feb. 29: Royal Challengers
March 3: Gujarat Giants

At New Delhi
March 5: Mumbai Indians
March 8: UP Warriorz
March 10: Royal Challengers
March 13: Gujarat Giants

Star attraction

Annabel Sutherland is currently in the form of her life, with match-winning performances in both departments across formats for Australia
The most expensive player in the 2024 auction, the all-rounder will look to put an underwhelming season with Gujarat Giants behind her
She will look to power Capitals to their maiden WPL crown in front of their home fans

The squad:

Meg Lanning (Capt.), Jemimah Rodrigues, Laura Harris, Shafali Verma, Alice Capsey, Annabel Sutherland, Arundathi Reddy, Ashwani Kumari, Jess Jonassen, Marizanne Kapp, Sneha Deepthi, Minnu Mani, Radha Yadav, Shikha Pandey, Aparna Mondal, Taniyaa Bhatia, Poonam Yadav, and Titas Sadhu.

UP Warriorz has the arsenal to take the battle to the opposition

Lavanya L

From Grace Harris' insatiable love for burgers to Sophie Ecclestone's chic braids, UP Warriorz perhaps had the most fun in season one of the Women's Premier League (WPL).

Led by the imperious and straight-talking keeper-batter Alyssa Healy, the outfit was slow to find its rhythm but learnt to play to its strengths of explosive middle-order batting and superior spin bowling to finish third in its first rodeo.

Ahead of the 2024 chapter, much remains the same for the Warriorz. The side has overseas options aplenty but only four slots, which leaves the management in an unenviable position yet again.

While season one's conundrums were in the bowling department, it is the top order which will leave the think-tank scratching their heads this time. In Healy, Danni Wyatt, and Chamari Athapaththu, the Warriorz have three accomplished openers.

Tough calls

The leadership group will need to take tough calls to accommodate Tahlia McGrath, their only overseas pace-bowling option, big-hitting finisher Harris and Ecclestone – the joint-highest wicket taker in season one (16) – in the ranks as well.

Harris might prove to be the floater yet again, coming up depending on opponent and wicket.

With England's Lauren Bell sitting out the season to focus on England's tour of New Zealand, the pace battery for the side looks a little depleted with responsibilities mounting for Anjali Sarvani. Saima Thakor and Poonam Khemnar also need to step up to give the Warriorz artillery some options through the season. Spin twins Deepti Sharma and Ecclestone will be key to wicket-taking strategies for the side.

Vrinda factor

Uncapped batter Vrinda Dinesh, who earned a whopping ₹1.3 crore in the auction, is a big-hitting option the Warriorz batting lineup will welcome with open arms.

Vrinda boasts of strike rates upwards of 134 in both the Senior Women's T20 Trophy and the U-23 T20 Trophy in the Indian domestic circuit.

U-19 World Cup winner Shweta Sehrawat (34 runs in 7 games) will also want to put last season's jitters behind her with contributions to a title-winning campaign this time around.

Lynchpins: Healy, right, and Ecclestone are key to Warriorz's fortunes. FILE PHOTO: SPORTZPICS/WPL

Warriorz' fixtures

At Bengaluru
Feb. 24: vs Royal Challengers
Feb. 26: Delhi Capitals
Feb. 28: Mumbai Indians
March 1: Gujarat Giants
March 4: Royal Challengers

At New Delhi
March 7: Mumbai Indians
March 8: Delhi Capitals
March 11: Gujarat Giants

Star attraction

Tahlia McGrath, the Australian vice-captain, was Warriorz's best batter last season
She made 302 runs at an average of 50.33 and a strike-rate of 158.11
McGrath will eye the century she missed the last time around, especially in a batters' paradise like Bengaluru

The squad: Alyssa Healy (Capt.), Danni Wyatt, Kiran Navgire, Shweta Sehrawat, Vrinda Dinesh, Chamari Athapaththu, Deepti Sharma, Grace Harris, Parshavi Chopra, Poonam Khemnar, S. Yashasri, Sophie Ecclestone, Tahlia McGrath, Laxmi Yadav, Anjali Sarvani, Saima Thakor, Rajeshwari Gayakward, and Gouher Sultana.

Bumrah released from India squad for fourth Test

Heavy workload: Bumrah has been rested for the Ranchi Test. PTI

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Jasprit Bumrah has been released from the India squad for the fourth Test against England to be held in Ranchi from February 23 to 27. The decision was taken keeping in mind the duration of the series and the amount of cricket he has played in recent times.

Meanwhile, K.L. Rahul has been ruled out of the Ranchi Test and his participation in the final game in Dharamshala will be subject to fitness. Mukesh Kumar, who was released from the squad for the third Test in Rajkot, has joined the squad in Ranchi.

India squad for fourth Test: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel (wk), K.S. Bharat (wk), Devdutt Padikkal, R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, and Akash Deep.

Brehme, West Germany's 1990 WC winning goal scorer, passes away

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Andreas Brehme, who scored from the penalty spot to seal victory for West Germany against Argentina in the 1990 World Cup final, died overnight into Tuesday at the age of 63, his former club Bayern Munich said.

"FC Bayern is deeply shocked by the sudden death of Andreas Brehme," the club said in a statement. "We will always keep Andreas Brehme in our hearts. As a World champion and as a very special person."

A versatile left-back, Brehme spent two seasons with Bayern Munich between 1986-1988. His professional career saw him play for Saarbruecken, Kaiserslautern, Inter Milan and Real Zaragoza, among others. He played 86 times for his country, scoring eight goals, the most famous of which, an 85th-minute penalty against Argentina at the Olympic Stadium in Rome, brought West Germany its third World Cup title.

Kaiserslautern, where Brehme played for 10 seasons over two stints, winning the Bundesliga and the German Cup, said the club would "honour his memory".

"Ciao Andy, forever a legend," said Inter Milans, where Brehme played together with his national team colleagues Juergen Klinsmann and Lothar Matthaeus.

Brehme's passing comes shortly after the death of another German footballing legend, Franz Beckenbauer. Beckenbauer, who died in January, was in the dugout for West Germany as manager when the team won the World Cup in 1990.

"Unfortunately, the sad news doesn't stop," said 1990 World Cup winner Pierre Littbarski. "This is very, very sad for German football and especially for us, the 1990 World champions."

Hero! Brehme is joy unbound, as Klinsmann rushes in to congratulate, after his penalty conversion gave West Germany the 1990 World Cup. AFP

Brehme. GETTY IMAGES

IPL 2024 to begin on March 22: Dhumal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The much-anticipated Indian Premier League is set to begin on March 22 and will be held entirely in the country despite the coinciding general elections, league chairman Arun Dhumal said on Tuesday.

The elections are expected to be held in April and May and that is the main reason why the schedule for the IPL's 17th edition has not been unveiled yet.

Dhumal said to begin with, only the schedule of the first 15 days will be announced and the roster for the remaining games will be decided after the announcement of the general election dates.

The dates of the Lok Sabha polls are expected to be announced early next month.

"We are looking at a March 22 start for the tournament. We are working closely with the government agencies and we will first release the initial schedule. The entire tournament will be held in India," said Dhumal.

Only in 2009, the IPL, in its entirety, was held overseas (South Africa) while the 2014 edition was partially held in the UAE due to the general elections.

In 2019, the tournament was held in India despite the elections.

The players' auction for the 2024 season was held in December last year and Australian pacer Mitchell Starc became the most expensive player in the history of the league after being bought by Kolkata Knight Riders for ₹24.75 crore.

INBRIEF

Berenguer scores twice, helps Bilbao pip Girona

Alex Berenguer scored twice as Athletic Bilbao brought high-flying Girona back down to earth with a 3-2 victory in the LaLiga on Monday. Despite a second consecutive league loss, Girona remains second in the standings with 56 points, six behind leader Real Madrid.

The results: Premier League: Everton 1 (Onana 84) drew with Crystal Palace 1 (Ayew 66).
LaLiga: Athletic Bilbao 3 (Berenguer 2, 56, Inaki 60) bt Girona 2 (Tsigankov 49, Garcia 75).

Ankita-Prarthana pair exits early in Dubai tournament

Wild card entrants Ankita Raina and Prarthana Thombare lot 4-6, 6-3, [17-15] in the doubles first round of the $3,211,715 WTA tennis tournament in Dubai.

Hyderabad wins Plate title, returns to Elite Group

Host Hyderabad defeated Meghalaya by five wickets in the Plate final on Tuesday and qualified for the Elite Group of the Ranji Trophy.

The scores: Meghalaya 304 & 243 lost to Hyderabad 350 & 203/5 in 34.2 overs (G. Rahul Singh 62, Tilak Varma 64).

LIVE TELECAST

New Zealand vs Australia: 1st T20I, Prime Video, 11.40 a.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan: 3rd T201, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 7 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & Hotstar, 1 a.m. (Thursday)
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 1 & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Tejas Dhingra is the National champion

Tejas Dhingra, astride Tiens Key from BRF Stables, was crowned National champion in the National Equestrian Championship Grand Prix Competition (1.50 metres class).

The results: NEC Show Jumping Grand Prix: 1. Tejas Dhingra (on Tiens Key), 2. Shaurya Rai (Cornets Star-Z), 3. Kekhriesilie Rio (Leonardo Van Holli); **Show Jumping Grade-1:** 1. Dhingra, 2. Shaurya, 3. Ashray Butta, 4. Sehaj Singh Virk.

Winning ride: Tejas (astride Tiens Key) on his way to victory.

Christina stars with a brace for Technico

Christina Rose George scored a brace as Technico Football Foundation defeated GRk Girls FC 3-0 in the KSFA Women's A-division League here on Tuesday.

The results: Technico Football Foundation 3 (Christina Rose George 19, 50, Nilima Batti 52) bt GRK Girls FC 0.

Narrow win for Bangalore Eagles

Bangalore Eagles FC edged out Roots FC 2-1 in the BDFA A-division league here on Tuesday.

The results: Bangalore Eagles FC 2 (Yokshim A. Wunghi 28, Thotngaying Hungyo 40+2) bt Roots FS 1 (Madhialagan 39); RWF FC 1 (D. Nandakumar 80+2) bt AGORC FC 0; BTM FC 1 (Rohan Jonathan 45) bt Income Tax FC 0.

Customs & GST edges AGORC

Customs & GST pipped AGORC 4-3 in the 24th Field Marshal KM Cariappa memorial hockey tournament here on Tuesday.

The results: Kodava Samaja S&RC 4 (Bhavin Kushalappa 23, V.R. Raghunath 24, 46, I.R. Nachappa 58) bt SWR, Hubli 1 (N. Kumar 2).

Customs & GST 4 (Vishal 8, 16, P.L. Thimmanna 38, Akshay Awad 47) bt AGORC 3 (N.M. Surya 23, 53, C.B. Poovanna 34).

SNAPSHOTS

Indian TT teams enter knockouts at Worlds

BUSAN: The Indian teams entered the knock-out stage (round-of-32) of the World team table tennis championships on Tuesday.

Final group results: Men: Group 3: India bt New Zealand 3-0 (Harmeet Desai bt Timothy Choi 11-5, 11-1, 11-6; G. Sathiyan bt Alfred Dela Pena 11-3, 11-7, 11-6; Manush Shah bt Maxwell Henderson 10-12, 6-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-6).

Women: Group 1: India bt Spain 3-2 (Sreeja Akula lost to Maria Xiao 9-11, 11-9, 11-13, 4-11; Manika Batra lost to Sofia-Xuan Zhang 11-13, 11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 7-11; Ayhika Mukherjee bt Elvira Rad 11-8, 11-13, 11-8, 9-11, 11-4; Manika bt Maria Xiao 11-9, 11-2, 11-4; Sreeja bt Sofia-Xuan 11-6, 11-13, 11-6, 11-3).

Lane infringement costs Gulveer gold medal

TEHRAN: Gulveer Singh, who had finished first in the men's 3000m in the Asian indoor athletics championships on Monday, lost his gold later as he was disqualified for lane infringement.

The results (gold medallists): Men: 60m: 1. Ali Anwar Ali Al Balushi (Oma) 6.52s. **3000m (revised):** 1. Nursultan Keneshbekov (Kgz) 8:08.85s; **4x400m:** Kazakhstan (3:12.05s); **High jump:** 1. Ryoichi Akamatsu (Jpn) 2.19m; **Triple jump:** 1. Su Wen (Chn) 16.74m.

It isn't just Bazball – India are better, full credit to their supply chain

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

There are two issues with blaming Bazball for England's defeat in Rajkot. Firstly, a defeat, however crushing, cannot carry greater weight than the 14 wins in 21 matches (this, after 11 defeats in 17 Tests previously). More significantly, it ignores how good the Indian team is, and how strong their supply chain management has become.

Bazball tends to irritate experts. Perhaps it is the self-confidence of the players. ("We can chase 600 runs"). It demands risk-taking in a format which preaches risk-aversion. There might a touch of *schadenfreud*e too, especially among former players.

All this is shows a misunderstanding of what Bazball stands for. It is not about hitting every ball, nor is it about winning every match. It is a mindset which works on putting pressure on the opposition through positive cricket, but is equally conscious of the need to absorb pressure too.

England have been playing this brand of attractive cricket for a couple of years now, and it would be a pity – and Sartrean bad faith – if the criticism got to them and they jettisoned the approach. Sure it needs tweaking, and a better understanding of the concept even among the English players.

The Root issue

Joe Root might well be the greatest batter to have played for England. The manner of his two dismissals in Rajkot points to a fundamental flaw in Bazball. Despite all claims of letting the players express themselves in the manner they like, bat (or bowl) without fear, and play without any recrimination from colleagues, the concept assumes a certain uniformity in aspirations and responses.

All batters are not equal. Despite surprising Pat Cummins with a reverse-hit six in a Test, and playing strokes sanctified by T20, Root gives the impression these departures from his essential self make him uncomfortable. He might want to belong; he has said he wishes to support skipper Ben Stokes like Stokes had supported him when he was captain.

Whatever the case, England's game spiralled downwards from the moment he reverse hit Jasprit Bumrah into Yashasvi Jaiswal's hands at slip in the first innings. It didn't help that England's approach in the chase was confusing. This lack of decisiveness exposed cracks in Bazball which prides itself on clear messaging.

Root might have been unlucky when his attempted sweep in the second innings failed on the umpire's call. "Everybody has a plan till they are punched in the mouth," said the boxer Mike Tyson. Everybody has a plan till they are 50 for seven.

England's fortunes in the remainder of the series will depend on Root rediscovering the touch that has fetched him 11,493 runs and 30 centuries.

Bazball – a shorthand invented by a journalist – is obsessed with positive cricket. Sometimes playing for a draw can be a positive response, especially in a five-Test series. And the best man to lead such a batting approach is Root. Stokes thinks England will win the series 3-2. Ben Duckett has given Bazball the credit for Jaiswal's double centuries. The extravagance of the statements matches the extravagance of the batting.

No need

India don't need Bazball when playing at home. They were without their three best batters (Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul, Rishabh Pant), their regular medium-pacer (Mohammed Shami) and their best spinner, Ashwin, for the most part. They had two debutants and a middle-order that had played fewer Tests than Root's average in the series.

Since their last tour of Australia where they won the Brisbane Test and the series with what was in effect their third team, India have shown a resilience and a willingness to "run into the danger", to use Stokes's memorable phrase about his team's approach to Bazball.

That series win came three years ago. Only three players from that eleven played in Rajkot where Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubhman Gill, Dhruv Jurel and Sarfaraz Khan looked like the youngsters preparing to take India into the next decade.

If it looks like a 4-1 series for India at this stage, that is merely what was expected before it began. If India plan to rest Jasprit Bumrah to keep him fit for the final Test (and, I suspect, for the IPL), there is a touch of Bazball arrogance about that.

There is much to be said for so-called old-fashioned strategies like retaining a winning combination, defence sometimes being the best form of offence and playing session by session!